



HAIL to the CHIEF

Trump picks budget head Mulvaney to be next chief of staff

In this March 22, 2018, file photo, Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney speaks in the Brady press briefing room at the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, JILL COLVIN and CATHERINE LUCEY

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Fri-

day picked budget director Mick Mulvaney to be his acting chief of staff, ending a chaotic search in which several top contenders took themselves out of con-

tention for the job. "Mick has done an outstanding job while in the Administration," Trump tweeted. "I look forward to working with him in this new

capacity as we continue to MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" Trump added that his current chief of staff, John Kelly, "will be staying until

the end of the year. He is a GREAT PATRIOT and I want to personally thank him for his service!"

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U.S., Canada look to ease strains amid 3-way spat with China

By **MATTHEW LEE** and **ROB GILLIES**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Canada moved Friday to ease tensions between them over the case of a top Chinese technology executive whose arrest by Canadian authorities has sparked a diplomatic crisis entangling the three countries.

Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, was arrested in Canada on Dec. 1 at the request of the United States, which wants her extradited to face charges that she and her company misled banks about the company's business dealings in Iran.

China detained two Canadians this week in apparent retaliation for Meng's detention.

The case has set off a three-way diplomatic spat in which Canada is stuck in the middle. The dispute threatens to complicate ties between the U.S. and Canada, which were already testy. And President



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, second from left, and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis right, and their Canadian counterparts Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland, second from right, and Canadian Minister of Defense Harjit Sajjan, left, leave the Benjamin Franklin Room as they conclude their news conference following a U.S.-Canada 2+2 Ministerial at the State Department in Washington, Friday, Dec. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

Donald Trump complicated matters by saying he might intervene in the case if it would help clinch a

U.S. trade agreement with China — much to the consternation of Canadian officials.

In talks at the State Department on Friday, the U.S. and Canadian foreign and defense ministers put on a united front, speaking of historically deep ties and cooperation on issues such as Iraq, Ukraine, Syria and Russia.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called for China to release the Canadians, saying their detention was “unlawful” and “unacceptable” in comments aimed at calming concerns in Ottawa that the Trump administration might abandon it in pursuit of a deal with Beijing.

He also tried to downplay Trump's suggestion that the Meng case could be connected to U.S.-China trade negotiations.

“The unlawful detention of two Canadian citizens is unacceptable. They ought to be returned,” Pompeo told reporters at a joint news conference after the talks he and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis hosted with Canada's Foreign Minister

Chrystia Freeland and Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan. “We ask all nations of the world to treat other citizens properly, and the detention of these two Canadian citizens in China ought to end.”

Trump's comment on Meng alarmed many in Canada who saw it as evidence the case has been politicized and that the U.S. is loosening its commitment to the rule of law and independent judiciary.

Trump has previously attacked Canada and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over trade, and his suggestion that he could intervene in the Meng case contradicted Canadian officials who said the arrest was not political.

Freeland made clear several times in Friday's news conference that Canada is a “rule of law” nation and expects others, especially the United States, to uphold that standard.

“Canada follows the rule of law. Canada follows rules,” she said. “It is also very important for Canada that extradition agreements are not used for political pur-

poses.”

On Friday, Canada's Global Affairs department said it had just received consular access to Michael Kovrig, one of the Canadians detained in China.

They continue to press for access to Michael Spavor. Both were arrested Monday.

Canada is increasingly uneasy about its once rock-solid relationship with the United States.

In years past, the U.S. would have been counted on to defend Canada when it came under attack and other countries would know the U.S. had Canada's back. That is no longer a certainty, particularly after Trump's jabs at Trudeau and persistent complaints about the Canadian government's policies.

In August, Saudi Arabia expelled Canada's ambassador to the kingdom and withdrew its own ambassador after Canada's foreign ministry tweeted support for an arrested Saudi activist. The Saudis also sold Canadian investments and ordered their citizens studying in Canada to leave. □

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Trump picks budget head Mulvaney to be next chief of staff

Continued from Front

One senior White House official said there was no time limit on the appointment and that Mulvaney would fill the role of chief of staff indefinitely, regardless of the "acting" title.

Key to his selection: Mulvaney and the president get along and Trump has appreciated how the budget director briefs him, according to the official. Additionally, Trump prized the former congressman's knowledge of Capitol Hill and political instincts as the White House prepares for both a Democratic-controlled House and the president's upcoming re-election campaign.

Unlike with Kelly's appointment, Mulvaney received the news before the president tweeted his announcement. Trump and Mulvaney met face to face Friday afternoon and spoke by phone in the evening, according to a second White House official. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the personnel matter on the record.

Mulvaney, who will be Trump's third chief of staff, will now take on his third job in the administration. He is head of the Office of Management and Budget, and for a time had simultaneously led the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Russell Vought, Mulvaney's deputy, is to take over at OMB.

The first senior official disputed reports that Mulvaney wasn't interested in the chief of staff job and said the president didn't need to change Mulvaney's mind, though the budget director had previously signaled disinterest. A person close to him had told reporters that Mulvaney had made clear in recent months that he would be more interested in taking over at the Treasury or Commerce Department.

It was unclear why Mulvaney's appointment was announced as temporary



White House Chief of Staff John Kelly listens as President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with newly elected governors in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018, in Washington.

— but that decision was made by the president, the first official said. The source added that Kelly was happy with the choice of Mulvaney and plans to stay on through the end of the year to assist with the transition. A former Tea Party congressman, Mulvaney was among a faction on the hard right that pushed GOP leaders into a 2013 government shutdown confrontation by insisting on lacing a must-pass spending bill with provisions designed to cripple President Barack Obama's signature health care law.

The appointment of the affable, fast-talking South Carolinian came just hours after another candidate for the post, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, took himself out of contention for the job. Christie cited family reasons in a statement saying that he was asking Trump to remove him from consideration. He had met with Trump on Thursday to discuss the job, according to a person familiar with the meeting who was not authorized to discuss it publicly.

The president's hunt for a new chief reverted to square one last weekend when Nick Ayers, Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, took himself out of the running and decided that he would instead leave the White House.

Ayers, who had cited family concerns as a reason why he didn't accept the post, tweeted Friday: "The right father of triplets got the job...Congratulations @MickMulvaneyOMB!" Both men are, coincidentally, fathers of triplets. For some months, Kelly had success streamlining the decision-making process in

the West Wing and curtailing access to the undisciplined president. But Trump grew weary of the restrictions and Kelly's influence waned as the two men frequently clashed. As the search dragged on after Ayers bowed out, the void had been filled with Trump's specialty: drama. British journalist Piers Mor-

gan suggested he would be a good fit in an op-ed for "The Daily Mail," while former major league slugger Jose Canseco tweeted his interest to Trump. Speculation has swirled around an array of Trump associates, prompting some to distance themselves from the job.

When former House Speaker Newt Gingrich visited the White House this week, he insisted it was merely to see the Christmas decorations. The wild process was hardly a novelty for the Trump administration, which has struggled with high staff turnover and attracting top talent, but it underscored the tumult of Trump's Washington. In past administrations, chief of staff was a sought-after job, typically awarded after a careful process.

Now, many view the job as a risky proposition, given Trump's propensity for disorder and his resistance to being managed.

Author Chris Whipple, an expert on chiefs of staff, had called the search process "sad to watch." □

Associated Press



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McCain replacement Sen. Jon Kyl resigning at end of year

By BOB CHRISTIE and NICHOLAS RICCARDI

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Sen. Jon Kyl is resigning from the seat he was appointed to less than four months ago following the death of John McCain, Gov. Doug Ducey announced Friday, a development which gives Ducey a second opportunity to fill the position.

Kyl, 76, had said he was only committed to serving through the end of the year, although Ducey said he had hoped to persuade him to serve through 2020. His resignation is effective Dec. 31 and forces a pivotal decision by the state's Republican governor.

That's because voters in 2020 will get to decide who fills McCain's seat for the final two years of its six-year term. Democrats picked up Arizona's other Senate seat in November and are already targeting the state in 2020 as part of their possible path to re-taking control of the Senate, increasing the pressure on Ducey to select someone who can hold the seat for the GOP.

Ducey said he will pick a replacement "in the near future." His office has been typically tight-lipped about who might fill the seat, leading to frenzied speculation in Arizona and Washington. There may be pressure on



In this Sept. 5, 2018, photo, Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., waits to be sworn in as a U.S. Senator by Vice President Mike Pence in at the Old Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

Ducey to select a woman, because the three most prominent possible Democratic challengers are men. U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego, former astronaut and current gun control advocate Mark Kelly and former state Attorney General Grant Woods, who left the GOP to become a Democrat this year, have all mulled running for the seat in 2020. Women voters are seen as key to both parties, and Ducey took pains in his state of the state address early this year to highlight prominent women.

Under state law, the gover-

nor must appoint a Republican because McCain was elected as a member of the GOP.

The most prominent Republican politician whose name has been floated is Rep. Martha McSally, who just lost a race for the state's other Senate seat to Democrat Kyrsten Sinema last month. A former air force colonel who was mentored by Kyl, McSally has drawn criticism from some Republicans for running a campaign that focused on her closeness to President Donald Trump and tried to portray Sinema

as a radical liberal.

Still, McSally only lost the race by two percentage points in a bad year for Republicans, and she's long been seen within the party as a possible senator. Other Republican women whose names have been floated do not have her experience running in competitive elections, especially statewide. They include Eileen Klein, a former health care executive appointed state treasurer by Ducey last year. She did not run for re-election. Some Republicans have also speculated about an appointment for

Barbara Barrett, a former Ambassador to Finland and businesswoman who unsuccessfully ran in a GOP gubernatorial primary in 1994.

Some Republicans have urged the appointment of McCain's widow, Cindy, to the seat. Notably, Ducey did not select her in the weeks after the senator's death, and there remains widespread animosity toward the McCain family from the GOP's conservative base.

One of the most often-mentioned names is Ducey's chief of staff, Kirk Adams, a onetime state lawmaker who resigned from the governor's office on Nov. 26 and whose last day working for Ducey was Friday. Other names that have surfaced include Bill Montgomery, who leads the top prosecutorial office in Maricopa County, the state's largest, and former Rep. Matt Salmon.

Ducey's selection of the well-respected Kyl following McCain's Aug. 25 death allowed him to dodge the controversy over a replacement during his own re-election campaign. But Kyl, who had previously served in the Senate for Arizona, made it clear he only agreed to the appointment out of a sense of duty and had no plans to stay in the job for long. □



In this Nov. 13, 2018, file photo, U.S. Rep. Bruce Poliquin, R-Maine, speaks at a news conference in Augusta, Maine.

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A Republican incumbent dropped his request for a recount Friday in the first congressional race in U.S.

history held under a system by which voters rank candidates in order of preference.

The announcement by Rep. Bruce Poliquin came a day after a federal judge

Republican drops recount request in Maine congressional race

tossed out his challenge of the candidate-ranking system. Poliquin lost his re-election bid to Democratic State Rep. Jared Golden in November. He requested the recount, which had been taking place in Augusta. But on Friday, Poliquin tweeted that he believes it's important to end the recount, in part because of the coming holidays. He also said he's still evaluating the possibility of appealing the judge's decision on the constitutionality of the candidate-ranking system.

Poliquin said there are still "unanswered questions" on the use of the new method, which is often called ranked-choice voting.

"Maine people continue to write and approach me with grave concerns over rank voting," he tweeted. "I understand their concerns, and the need for our elections to be transparent and fair."

Maine Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap confirmed on Friday that the recount is over, and "for all practical purposes this election is concluded" with

its cessation. He added that Poliquin has a right to appeal Judge Lance Walker's federal court decision, but "the District Court's ruling makes it legally clear that it is not unconstitutional to lose an election."

But Poliquin wasn't conceding defeat. The statement insisted that he had "the largest number of votes on Election Day."

He was referring to his first-round lead of more than 2,000 votes over Golden, but that lead did not hold up after an additional round of vote tabulation. □

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Wisconsin, Michigan Republicans enact lame-duck limits

By SCOTT BAUER, DAVID EGERT and TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Republicans in Wisconsin and Michigan enacted last-minute limits on Democratic power Friday, with outgoing GOP governors in both Upper Midwest states signing measures protecting their priorities before leaving office in less than a month.

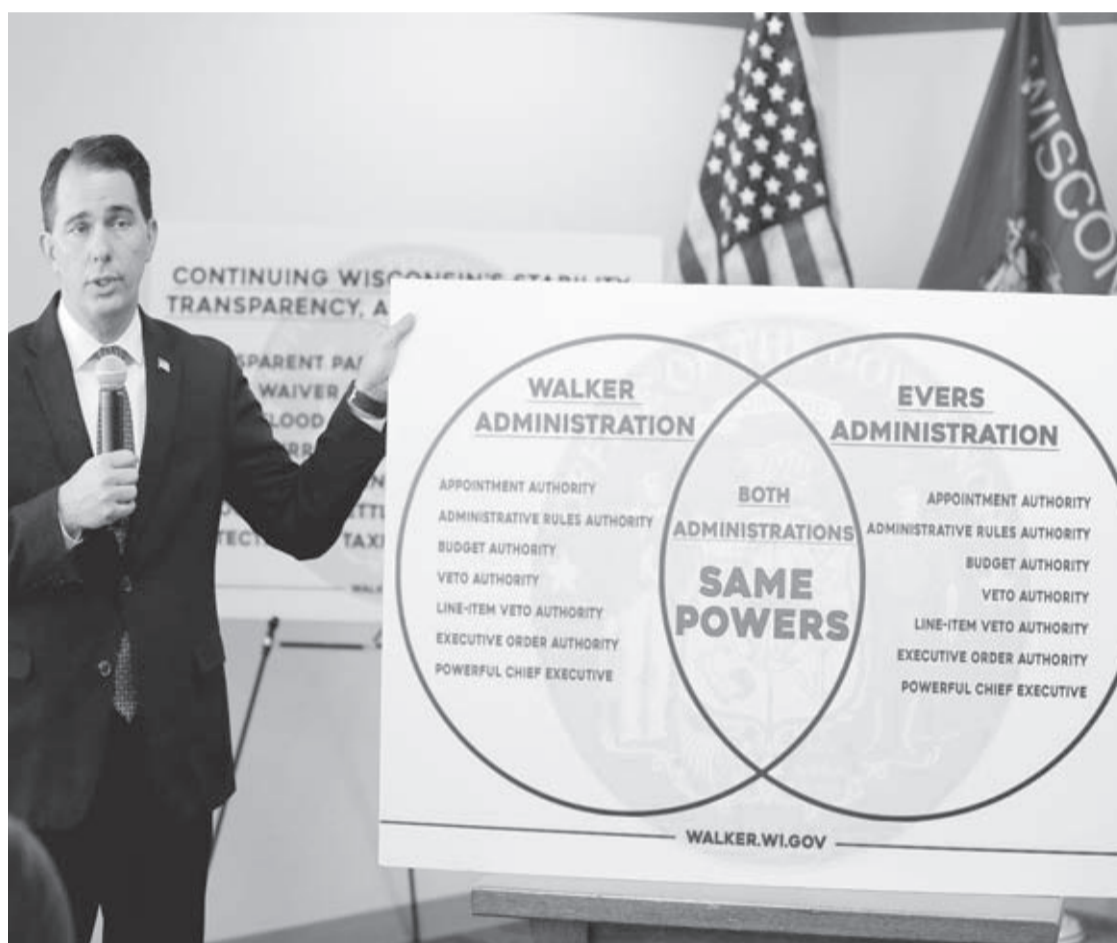
Democrats derided the moves as desperate power grabs, while Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder downplayed the scope of their actions while defending their rights to do it.

"There's a lot of hype and hysteria, particularly in the national media, implying this is a power shift. It's not," Walker said before signing bills that weaken powers of the incoming Democratic governor and attorney general and limit early voting to two weeks before an election.

The push in both states mirrors tactics employed by North Carolina Republicans in 2016.

Snyder signed measures to significantly scale back citizen-initiated measures to raise Michigan's minimum wage and require paid sick leave for workers, finalizing an unprecedented Republican-backed legislative maneuver that opponents blasted as shameful.

To prevent minimum wage and earned sick time initiatives from going to voters last month, GOP lawmakers approved them in September. That allowed them to more easily alter the mea-



Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker talks about legislation he signed into law during a news conference Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 in Green Bay, Wis.

asures with simple majority votes rather than the three-fourths support that would have been needed if voters had passed the proposals.

The tactic — never done before — was pushed by the business community as necessary to avoid jeopardizing the economy. But it was criticized as an unconstitutional attack on voters' will at a time Republicans in Michigan are trying to dilute the powers of incoming elected Democrats.

Snyder signed the bills in private and issued a statement calling them a "good balance" between what the ballot drives proposed

and what legislators drafted initially.

"They address a number of difficulties for job providers while still ensuring paid medical leave benefits and increased minimum-wage incomes for many Michiganders," he said.

Walker traveled 130 miles from his Capitol office to sign the bills in Green Bay, a more conservative city far from the liberal capital of Madison where protesters converged on the Capitol to voice opposition to the lame-duck legislative session two weeks ago.

Just two hours later, a group run by former Democratic U.S. Attorney Gen-

eral Eric Holder announced it planned legal action to block the limitation on early voting.

Members of both parties, including Democratic Gov.-elect Tony Evers and former Republican Gov. Scott McCallum, urged Walker to reject the legislation. Evers accused Walker of ignoring and overriding the will of the people by signing the bills into law.

"People will remember he took a stand that was not reflective of this last election," Evers said.

"I will be reviewing our options and do everything we can to make sure the people of this state are not

ignored or overlooked."

Walker, speaking after he signed the bills, brushed aside what he called "high-pitched hysteria" from critics of the legislation. He said his legacy will be the record he left behind that includes all-but eliminating collective bargaining for public workers, not the lame-duck measures.

Walker's signing of the bills came a day after he announced a \$28 million incentive package to keep open a Kimberly-Clark Corp. plant in northeast Wisconsin.

One of the lame-duck bills would prevent Evers from making such a deal, instead requiring the Legislature's budget committee to sign off.

In Michigan, Democratic state Rep. Christine Greig blasted Snyder.

"With a flick of his lame-duck pen, Gov. Snyder chose to rob the people of Michigan of the strong paycheck and good benefits they deserve," she said in a statement.

"It is shameful that this governor, who is just counting down the days to the end of his tenure, would use this opportunity to hurt the people of Michigan one last time." □

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UNC system rejects \$5M plan to house Confederate statue

By JONATHAN DREW

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) —

North Carolina's public university system rejected a proposal Friday to build a \$5 million structure to house a toppled Confederate statue, opting instead to "go back to the drawing board" to figure out what to do with the monument. University of North Carolina System Chairman Harry Smith said cost was a primary concern in turning down the proposal to move the statue known as "Silent Sam" into a new building on the outskirts of the Chapel Hill flagship campus.

The statewide Board of Governors passed a resolution Friday to have several of its members work on a new plan that's due in March. Smith didn't indicate where the statue could end up, but said he believes any move off campus would require changes to a strict state law on historical monuments.

"The \$5.3 million dollars is, I think, pretty tough for a lot of us to swallow," he told reporters.

"We're going to go back to the drawing board, in a team-like approach, and try to get it right."

A proposal to build a history center to house the statue was approved in early December by the trustees of the Chapel Hill campus.

The plan drew sharp criticism both for its cost and because it would return Silent Sam to the grounds of the university — sparking

time at the end of the semester. The threat was serious enough that the chair of the UNC faculty, Leslie Parise, wrote an open let-

a main campus quad from 1913 until it was torn down in August by protesters who decried its origins, including a racist speech by a former

entirely, but were restricted by the monuments law that allows relocation only in narrow circumstances.

On Friday, Folt said she's "grateful" for more time to develop a plan and hopes the added political muscle of the Board of Governors will allow off-campus options to be considered.

She acknowledged that the rejected plan, which she helped develop, "didn't satisfy anyone," underscoring the difficult issues surrounding the century-old statue. It's been stored in an undisclosed location since it was torn down.

UNC basketball coach Roy Williams, whose team includes several signers of a letter that opposes returning the statue to campus, said he supported their ability to speak about causes they care about.

"I talked to our guys about it, told them if they feel strongly about it, go right ahead," he told reporters before the statewide board's vote. Williams, himself a UNC graduate, added: "my own personal opinion is I wish we didn't have a situation where we're putting it back on campus. I don't know what everybody's motivation was in the early 19-teens, 1913? But right now it's a very divisive issue. I wish it would go away." □



In this Monday, Aug. 20, 2018, file photo, police stand guard after the Confederate statue known as Silent Sam was toppled by protesters on campus at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Associated Press

a demonstration by hundreds the night after it was announced.

Since then, numerous faculty members, students and current or former athletes such as NBA player Harrison Barnes have signed open letters or otherwise voiced opposition to returning the statue to campus.

And about 80 teaching assistants have also threatened to withhold final grades on 2,000 student assignments at a critical

ter Friday saying that while the aim of protesting the return of the statue was admirable, "withholding grades will do much more harm than good in helping us reach this goal."

Several dozen protesters gathered outside of Friday's meeting of the Board of Governors amid a heavy police presence. Some protesters held signs with messages including "No Racist Statues."

"Silent Sam" had stood on

Confederate when it was dedicated.

In early December, the Chapel Hill campus trustees proposed a site about a mile from the main quad where the statue previously stood, saying they had to balance safety concerns with a strict 2015 state historical law on Confederate monuments. UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Carol Folt and several of the trustees said they would prefer moving the statue off campus

California alleges utility falsified pipeline safety records

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Regulators on Friday accused one of California's largest utilities of falsifying safety documents for natural gas pipelines for years following its criminal conviction and multimillion-dollar fine for a pipeline explosion that killed eight people near San Francisco.

The California Public Utilities Commission said an investigation by its safety and enforcement division found Pacific Gas & Electric Co. lacked enough employees to fulfill requests to find and mark natural gas pipelines. Because of the staff short-

age, PG&E pressured supervisors and locators to complete the work, leading staff to falsify data from 2012 to 2017, regulators said.

The company "had common knowledge among its supervisors that locators falsified data," the commission said.

"Utility falsification of safety related records is a serious violation of law and diminishes our trust in the utility's reports on their progress," commission President Michael Picker said in a statement.

"These findings are another

example of why we are investigating PG&E's safety culture."

A U.S. judge fined the utility \$3 million after it was convicted of six felony charges for failing to properly maintain a natural gas pipeline that exploded in 2010 and wiped out a neighborhood in suburban San Bruno. Regulators also fined PG&E \$1.6 billion for the blast.

"This is the period immediately following the 2010 San Bruno gas explosion and fire that resulted in eight fatalities, numerous injuries and damage to property," the commission said in its

report. "This commission would expect that after such a tragedy, caused by multiple proven violations of law, PG&E would have sought to vigorously enhance and increase its effectiveness in all aspects of its gas safety."

PG&E didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The investigation was forwarded Thursday to a judge, who will hear testimony on the findings and will allow PG&E to provide evidence that it didn't violate safety laws.

The utility that provides ser-

vice to millions of people throughout Northern California also is under scrutiny for its role in igniting wildfires. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection found that PG&E equipment was responsible for starting 16 wildfires last year.

While a cause has not yet been determined for the massive fire that wiped out the town of Paradise and killed at least 86 people last month, PG&E equipment is being scrutinized.

A number of victims have sued the utility, alleging negligence. □



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Japanese boat owners charged with helping smuggle shark fins

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLER

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — U.S. prosecutors in Hawaii are accusing the owners and officers of a Japanese fishing boat of helping Indonesian fishermen smuggle nearly 1,000 shark fins, worth about \$58,000 on the black market.

It's against U.S. law to remove the fins of sharks at sea. Prosecutors say the fishermen harvested fins from some sharks that were still alive, then discarded their carcasses into the ocean. Fins are a pricey delicacy often used in soups.

The boat's owner, Japanese business Hamada Suisan Co. Ltd., and JF Zengyoren, a Japanese fishing cooperative that the vessel belongs to, were charged with aiding and abetting the trafficking and smuggling of 962 shark fins, the U.S. attorney's office in Hawaii said. The boat's captain, fishing master and first engineer were also

charged.

Last month, 10 Indonesian fishermen who were working on the longline tuna-fishing vessel were arrested in Hawaii and charged with trying to smuggle nearly 1,000 shark fins from the U.S. to Indonesia.

Four of the fishermen pleaded guilty Friday to a lesser, misdemeanor charge of knowingly attempting to export shark fins, court records show. A judge sentenced them to time they already served in jail. The other six are expected to plead guilty to the same charge and receive the same sentence later Friday. They were headed home via Honolulu when airport security workers found shark fins in their luggage, according to court documents.

The fishermen harvested fins from hundreds of sharks "in some instances while the sharks were stunned but still alive, and discarded the finless carcasses into the ocean, all under the

supervision of the captain, and at the direction of the fishing master and first engineer," prosecutors said in a news release.

A Hamada representative in Japan said Friday that the Indonesian crew members had shark fins without the captain's knowledge.

"Our tuna boats are for catching tuna. They are not to be used to smuggle shark fins," said a man who answered the phone at Hamada Suisan in Kagoshima, Japan, who declined to provide his name. "This is our company's policy."

JF Zengyoren, which is known as Japan Fisheries Cooperatives in English, said in a statement that it declined to comment because it hadn't received a copy of the complaint and was still finding out information.

Prosecutors say they could face fines of up to \$5.5 million.

Some of the fins were from oceanic whitetip sharks, which are listed as a threat-



This Nov. 28, 2018 photo provided by the United States Attorney's Office and introduced as evidence in court in Honolulu shows some of the hundreds of shark fins seized from a Japanese fishing boat.

Associated Press

ened species under the Endangered Species Act, prosecutors said. Other fins were from silky sharks and bigeye thresher sharks, which are also protected.

"Shark finning is unlawful and takes a very real toll on our precious ocean ecosystem," Kenji Price, U.S. attorney for Hawaii, said in a statement. □

California mandates 100-percent zero-emission bus fleet

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California moved Friday to eliminate fossil fuels from its fleet of 12,000 transit buses, enacting a first-in-the-nation mandate that will vastly increase the number of electric buses on the road.

The California Air Resources Board voted to require that all new buses be carbon-

free by 2029. Environmental advocates project that the last greenhouse-gas-emitting buses will phase out by 2040.

While clean buses cost more than the diesel and natural gas vehicles they'll replace, advocates of the mandate say they have lower maintenance and fuel costs. Supporters hope

creating demand for thousands of clean buses will bring down the price of those buses and eventually other heavy-duty vehicles like trucks.

California has 153 zero-emission buses on the road today with hundreds more on order. Most of them are electric, though technology also exists for buses

powered by hydrogen fuel cells.

"Every state could do a strategy like this," said Adrian Martinez, an attorney for Earthjustice, an environmental legal group that supports the rule. "This is something that California did first because we have major air quality and pollution problems, but this

is something other states could pursue.

Existing state and federal subsidies are available to help transit agencies absorb some of the higher costs of carbon-free buses, along with money from the state's settlement with Volkswagen over the German automaker's emission-cheating software. □

Analysis: In democracies' political chaos, new model emerges

By **NIKO PRICE**

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Bickering in the Oval Office. Shouting at the Houses of Parliament. Rioting on the Champs-Élysées.

It's a chaotic moment for the countries that have long underpinned the global order, a time of instability for the balance of power that has reigned for decades.

Across the world, people are questioning truths they had long held to be self-evident, and they are dismissing some of them as fake news. They are replacing traditions they had long seen as immutable with haphazard reinvention.

In France, people who feel left behind by a globalizing world have spent the last few weeks marching and rioting to protest a government they call elitist and out of touch. The government, whose initial dismissiveness seemed to confirm their suspicions, was finally forced to change tack.

Britain is still shuddering from a referendum that its government called to muzzle naysayers, only to see those naysayers win the day. Now, as politicians go through awkward contortions to deliver on that vote, the government is on the verge of collapse.

And in the United States, a president who some accuse of upending ideals that the nation holds dear is aggressively abandoning protocol and customs that have prevailed through a dozen of his predecessors. His core followers are thrilled; many others are getting vertigo.

What's more, these events are playing out not only in the lands of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, of the Magna Carta and of the Declaration of Independence, but across the Western world.

It's a similar narrative in each place: People outside the centers of power are rejecting political elites they feel take them for granted, and backing new movements that eschew the rules and that often play to their basest

thoughts. To be clear, this isn't a weakening of democracy. In a way, it's the

the unspoken guarantee that had kept the political establishment in place for

large numbers and voted narrowly to leave the European Union, sending shock-

stepped up the following May, when a young banker and former economy minister managed to persuade voters that he was an outsider. Emmanuel Macron's hyperglobalism contrasted with Trump's xenophobia, but he too argued he would drain the swamp and stand up for common people. That promise faded quickly. Macron soon became known as the "president of the rich," an image not helped by his arrogant proclamation that France needs a "Jupiter," chief of the Roman gods.

Anger peaked when, in an ostensibly environmentalist move, he pledged to raise already exorbitant taxes on gasoline. People fed up over high taxes and high cost of living spilled into the streets, some violently, in protests that have shaken the country and forced Macron to backtrack.

UP NEXT: MORE UNCERTAINTY

The chaos doesn't end there. Across the world, politicians are reading from a new playbook. From the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte to Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, candidates are winning elections despite — or perhaps because of — statements and actions so politically incorrect that until recently they would have guaranteed defeat. And the newly jumbled landscape provides openings for nations like China, which are looking to extend their influences into fresh corners of the planet. Is this a pivot point in modern political history? Western liberal democracy seems almost quaint now, loitering quietly in the corner as its most prominent standing proponent, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, steps slowly out of the limelight.

The themes of Western democratic revolutions remain more relevant than ever, even in new forms. Whether these sharp new voices represent new paths to liberty remains an open question, as does whether the result will be the greater equality that so many say they crave. □



In this Nov. 24, 2018 file photo, a demonstrator waves the French flag on a burning barricade on the Champs-Élysées avenue with the Arc de Triomphe in background, during a demonstration against the rise of fuel taxes.

Associated Press

opposite.

IS CONSENSUS OUTDATED?

The flavor of democracy most familiar to the West is an indirect one, with voters' desires helping to shape the institutions that do the governing — and that often act as mannered buffers that calm stormy political waters.

The emerging models, though, summon a more fundamental, sometimes brasher form of democracy in which votes and other political expressions have a more direct effect, or in which they empower an individual who can bypass those institutions.

In the process, these democratic nations risk losing a tradition of consensus decades old — an agreement among one another about how to live, how to govern and how to interact with others that has prevailed since the end of World War II.

How did this all happen?

Let's back up a decade, to when the Ponzi scheme of low-deposit, high-risk mortgages brought the global financial system to its knees. The resulting years of recession and austerity added up to a betrayal of

decades: that each generation would be better off than the last. "We haven't forgotten 2008," reads graffiti on a bank near Paris' riot-scarred Champs-Élysées. "Give us our money back."

Add to that disruptive technology that is replacing accountants with algorithms, secretaries with Siri and drivers with their own trucks. Mix in the ubiquity of social media, which has removed the filters of truthfulness and civility that once moderated political discourse. Top it off with a campaign of hacking, promoted by enemies of the West and designed to misinform, elevate suspicions and create ruckus. That combustible mix exploded in 2016, and the mushroom cloud is still rising. In June of that year, after more than four decades of ambivalent membership in the European club, Britain held a referendum that intended — in the words of then-Prime Minister David Cameron — "to settle this European question" once and for all.

After a campaign filled with xenophobic fearmongering and finance violations, Britons turned out in

waves through the political establishment.

Cameron resigned, leaving successor Theresa May the unenviable task of trying to navigate an elegant departure amid gleeful "Brexiters," panicking "remainers" and exasperated European frenemies. She narrowly survived a leadership challenge Wednesday, but her government could fall at any time as she tries to prevent a potentially catastrophic "no-deal" Brexit on March 29. In November 2016, it was America's turn to buck tradition. After an uncivil campaign that broke the Internet, Donald Trump won a bitter vote to become leader of the free world. Pretty much everything that has happened since has continued off script.

From his impetuous foreign policy to his testing of the American tradition of separation of powers, Trump's entire palette of activities has drawn questions about whether he — and by extension the United States — will stick to long-held principles and commitments. For the most powerful nation on Earth, that uncertainty is no small matter. France



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May aims to rescue Brexit plan; EU says ball's in UK's court

By JILL LAWLESSS

LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May launched a rescue mission for her ailing Brexit deal Friday, after the European Union rebuffed her request to sweeten the divorce agreement so she can win over hostile lawmakers at home. EU leaders meeting in Brussels showed little appetite to resolve May's Brexit impasse for her, saying the U.K. Parliament must make up its mind. The choice was either back the Brexit agreement or send Britain tumbling out of the bloc in March without a deal and into unknown economic chaos.

"There is one accord, the only one possible," French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters at the end of a two-day summit. He said it was "the British parliament's time" to decide whether to accept or reject it. The Brexit gridlock has left Britain's future looking like a high-stakes gamble with a dizzyingly wide range of possible outcomes. There could be an orderly or a disorderly Brexit. May's Conservative government could fall and an early election be held. Britain could make a last-minute request to the EU to give it more time and not leave the bloc on March 29. Some people are even pressing for the U.K. to hold a second referendum on Britain's EU membership. So many possibilities, so little time. May came to the EU summit seeking legally binding changes to the agreement, which is opposed by a majority of British lawmakers.

But the 27 other EU leaders offered only reassurances. They said they would seek

to move swiftly on forging a new trade deal after Britain leaves the bloc, and promised that a legally binding

May was filmed speaking sternly to Juncker as leaders arrived at Friday morning's session of the summit.

always at Prime Minister Theresa May's disposal." But May's against-the-odds optimism contrasted with

mirroring her, because this is a woman of great courage doing her job in the best way possible."

May canceled a Brexit vote in the U.K. Parliament this week after it became clear that lawmakers would resoundingly reject the Brexit deal she concluded with the EU last month. Anger at that postponement helped trigger a no-confidence vote in May from members of her own Conservative Party. She won, but was left weakened after more than a third of her lawmakers rebelled.

Still, May insists she will secure enough changes to get Parliament's approval in a vote before Jan. 21. May says failure to support her deal could lead to a "no-deal" Brexit, which officials warn could bring economic recession, gridlock at U.K. ports and shortages of essential goods.

The problem is that May's deal is loathed both by pro-Brexit lawmakers, who think it keeps Britain bound too closely to the bloc, and pro-Europeans, who see it as inferior to staying in the EU. Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said the EU's refusal to renegotiate meant May's Brexit plan was "dead in the water." But Labour not yet triggered a no-confidence vote in May's government. Many in the EU feel the problem lies with Britain's divided Parliament, which largely dislikes May's deal but doesn't agree on a better option. Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel said the problem was not Britain's leader.

"We know what Theresa May wants, and she wants to have the possible deal passing Westminster, but the problem is the MPs in London," he said. □



British Prime Minister Theresa May speaks during a media conference at an EU summit in Brussels, Friday, Dec. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

insurance policy to keep the Irish border open would only be used temporarily. They rejected British pressure to put a fixed end date on the border guarantee, and refused to re-negotiate the Brexit agreement, a 585-page legal text settling issues including the size of Britain's divorce bill and the future rights of Europeans living in Britain and Britons living in the EU. It also includes a document laying out the two sides' hopes for future relations, which isn't legally binding.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker accused Britain of failing to give detailed proposals on Brexit, saying it was "up to the British government to tell us exactly what they want."

She said they had had a "robust" exchange.

Nonetheless, May told reporters in Brussels that she welcomed the EU's reassuring words — and that, as formal conclusions of an EU summit, they "have legal status."

"There is work still to do. And we will be holding talks in coming days about how to obtain the further assurances that the U.K. Parliament needs in order to be able to approve the deal," May said.

European Council President Donald Tusk, however, said no talks with Britain were scheduled.

"I have no mandate to organize any further negotiations," Tusk told reporters. "But of course, we will stay here in Brussels, and I am

a pessimistic tone from many on the EU side. EU leaders expressed deep doubts that May could live up to her side of their Brexit agreement and vowed to step up preparations for a potentially-catastrophic "no-deal" scenario for Britain's departure.

"We are going to be sure to prepare for all hypotheses, including the hypothesis of a 'no deal,'" said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel, who expressed a "gigantic doubt" that May could get her Brexit deal passed by British lawmakers.

But there was also sympathy for a leader who has endured the toughest week of her career.

Juncker said May was "a good friend, and I am ad-

Climate talks extended as island nations demand action

By **FRANK JORDANS**

Associated Press

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) —

Weary officials from almost 200 countries faced another day of negotiations at the U.N. climate talks to bridge their last remaining differences as small island nations on Friday demanded an ambitious stance against global warming.

The talks in Poland were supposed to end Friday but Michal Kurtyka, a senior Polish official chairing the negotiations, told delegates to resume talks on a revised draft text at 4 a.m. Saturday (0300 GMT).

"All parties, with the support of the presidency, are working very hard right now in order to solve outstanding issues and in order to find the balanced package here in Katowice," Kurtyka told reporters.

After two weeks of talks in the southern Polish city, diplomats have come closer to agreeing on the rules that govern the 2015 Paris climate accord. These include how countries should transparently report both their greenhouse gases emissions and their efforts to reduce them.

Scientists say global emissions need to drop dramatically by 2030 and reach near-zero by 2050 in order to prevent the potentially



Polish teenagers stage a protest in the U.N. climate conference venue on the last days of talks to urge negotiators from almost 200 countries to reach an agreement on ways of keeping global warming in check in Katowice, Poland, Friday, Dec. 14, 2018.

catastrophic consequences for life on Earth.

A recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that it's possible to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) higher by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial times. That's the lower end of the 1.5-to-2 degrees C (2.7-3.6 degrees F) scale mentioned in the Paris ac-

cord. But this would require a drastic overhaul of the global economy, including ending the use of almost all fossil fuels.

The United States, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have refused to "welcome" the IPCC report, angering other countries and environmentalists.

Former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed warned that nations such as his, which consider

themselves on the front lines of global warming, would veto the current draft because it lacks a clear commitment to the 1.5 C-target.

"If necessary, we will rebel against the negotiations," Nasheed told reporters.

Another issue haunting negotiators is the rules for an international market in carbon credits.

The clash pits emerging economies such as Brazil —

Associated Press

which amassed large piles of carbon credits under the 1997 Kyoto treaty's rules — against industrial countries such as those in the European Union, which believe the older credits aren't worth the paper they were printed on.

Economists believe a functioning carbon trading system could be an effective way to drive down emissions and raise large amounts of money for measures to curb global warming.

Alex Hanafi, lead counsel at the New York-based Environmental Defense Fund, said Brazil was trying to weaken the rules in such a way that would allow countries to count their emissions reductions twice, undermining the carbon markets.

"This loophole needs to be closed so zombie credits from the old (Kyoto) Clean Development Mechanism cannot infect the climate integrity of the Paris Agreement," he said.

"Brazil is currently working with other parties on a bridging proposal," said the country's chief negotiator, Antonio Marcondes. Aid for poor countries, and whether they could benefit from a levy on the carbon market, is another key issue at the talks. □

13 young miners feared dead in India's remote northeast

By **WASBIR HUSSAIN**

Associated Press

GAUHATI, India (AP) —

Thirteen young miners were missing and feared dead following the collapse of a shaft and flooding of a coal mine they were digging illegally in India's remote northeast, police said Friday.

Rescuers were attempting to pump water out of the mine, which flooded Wednesday, police said. National Disaster Response Force workers joined local authorities in the rescue effort.

Police said rescuers can only reach the miners after the water is removed from



Rescuers work at the site of a coal mine that collapsed in Ksan, in the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya, Friday, Dec. 14, 2018.

the mine.

Those missing are believed to be teenage boys used by illegal mining groups to enter "rat hole" mines with small openings.

They said digging at the mine was banned four years ago, but illegal and unsafe activity by private landowners and the local community is rife.

Associated Press

The area in Meghalaya state is about 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of Shillong, the state capital.

"It was absolutely an illegal mining activity," said Conrad Sangma, the state's top elected official.

He said authorities would crack down on illegal mining groups.

Last month, an activist, Agnes Kharshiing, was assaulted by people involved in illegal mining when she visited the area to protest their activities.

She remains hospitalized with life-threatening head and other injuries.

Demand for coal has increased in energy-hungry

India.

Migrants from poorer parts of the country come to work illegally in the coal mine area, where they earn enough money to pay off powerful people who make sure the mines' guards don't interfere.

People carrying baskets filled with stolen coal on carts or bicycles are a common sight in these areas.

In 2016, six illegal miners died when a section of a closed mine collapsed in Burdwan district in India's West Bengal state.

The accident occurred when about 200 illegal miners were extracting coal from the mine. □

Japan begins reclamation at disputed US base despite protest

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's central government started main reclamation work Friday at a disputed U.S. military base relocation site on the southern island of Okinawa despite fierce local opposition.

Construction workers dumped a truckload of sediment and bulldozed it into the sea at Henoko on Okinawa's east coast to build a runway for a Marine Corps base that will be relocated from densely populated Futenma in the southern part of the island. The central government has reversed Okinawa's earlier ban on landfill work at the site.

Opponents of the relocation say it would not only be an environmental debacle but also ignore local wishes to remove the base.

"I resent it strongly," Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki told reporters. "The central government is forcibly dumping the sediment into the sea and it does not even pay the slightest attention to the will of the Okinawan people."

Tamaki calls the one-sided decision "illegal" and has



Protesters on canoes display placard as construction workers dumped a truckload of sediment on the ground and bulldozed it into the sea at Henoko on Okinawa's east coast to build a runway for a Marine Corps base, Friday, Dec. 14, 2018.

repeatedly visited Tokyo, urging top officials in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet to postpone the landfill work and engage in dialogue. Tamaki was in Tokyo on Thursday for talks with Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya.

Dozens of people in rubber boats protested the move, hoisting placards.

"Don't kill the ocean," one of the placards said. "No military base needed for

Okinawa's children," another one read.

Many Okinawans say the presence of so many U.S. troops on the island is already a heavy burden and they want the existing Futenma air station closed and its replacement moved off the island entirely.

Tamaki, who was elected late September on his campaign promises to block the Henoko base and further

reduce U.S. bases on the island, also visited Washington and New York last month to gain support for Okinawa from the American public and officials. Washington's position remains that the dispute should be resolved between Tokyo and Okinawa. Officials in Tokyo said the Henoko plan is the only one feasible and they will stick with it despite protests.

"In order to maintain the

deterrence of the Japan-U.S. alliance and to remove the risk of the Futenma air station, its relocation to Henoko is the only solution," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters Friday. He added that the central government will work toward reducing Okinawa's burden of hosting U.S. troops and gaining understanding and cooperation from residents.

Tetsuro Fukuyama, a senior opposition lawmaker belonging to the Constitutional Democratic Party, criticized Abe's government for pushing through with the base relocation.

"This is far from democracy," Fukuyama said. "The Abe government has no compassion for Okinawa, or respect for the rule of law or respect for the will of the people."

The plan is to build a V-shape runway on the landfill for a targeted completion in 2022 as a replacement for Futenma after its closure.

Iwaya said the plan is being delayed because of persistent protests and a planned Futenma closure by the target date seems difficult. □

Associated Press

Sri Lankan prime minister to resign amid crisis

By KRISHAN FRANCIS

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Supporters say disputed Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has decided to resign in an attempt to end the country's political crisis.

Rajapaksa's decision Friday came a day after the Supreme Court delivered a blow by ruling that a decision by President Maithripala Sirisena to dissolve Parliament was unconstitutional. Sirisena's opponents and rule-of-law activists hailed the unanimous ruling, but it did not end a months-long political stalemate that has kept Sri Lanka without a functional government.

HOW IT CAME ABOUT

The conflict began when President Maithripala Sirise-



Supporters of ousted Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe celebrate outside the supreme court complex in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

na sacked then-Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and appointed former strongman Rajapaksa in his place.

Wickremesinghe said Sirisena didn't follow the constitution in removing him and claimed to still be the lawful prime minister. Rajapaksa sought to secure a majority

in Parliament but failed. In response, Sirisena dissolved Parliament and ordered new elections, but those actions were put on hold by the Supreme Court until it heard the case and delivered its judgment Thursday. After the court suspended the dissolution, Parliament reconvened and passed

two no-confidence votes against Rajapaksa, but he held on to office with Sirisena's backing. Parliament also voted to block funds for him and his Cabinet. Lawmakers opposing Rajapaksa took the fight to the Court of Appeal, which suspended Rajapaksa and his Cabinet from functioning in their positions until it concludes the case. Rajapaksa asked the Supreme Court to end the suspension, but it rejected the request on Friday.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN

A pro-Rajapaksa lawmaker, Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena, said Rajapaksa decided in a meeting with Sirisena to resign Saturday to allow the president to appoint a new government. Sirisena has resisted

suggestions that he reappoint Wickremesinghe, but may now be compelled to do so since Wickremesinghe has shown he has the support of 117 lawmakers, a majority of the 225-member Parliament.

Reappointing Wickremesinghe would allow a functioning government and Parliament. It would also allow lawmakers to dissolve Parliament by a two-thirds vote and hold new elections.

Lawmakers could also attempt to impeach Sirisena on the basis of the Supreme Court ruling that his order to dissolve Parliament violated the constitution. But it may be difficult to obtain the required support of two-thirds of Parliament's members to approve an impeachment motion. □

Nicaraguan police raid NGO offices, seize records

By LUIS MANUEL GALEANO

Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua

(AP) — Nicaraguan police have raided the offices of five nongovernmental organizations and an independent media outlet, alleging that they participated in seeking the government's overthrow.

The raids were the latest strong-arm actions taken by the government of President Daniel Ortega. Since popular street protests destabilized his government in April, Ortega has reconsolidated power and methodically pursued perceived enemies. Police on Thursday forced open doors and carried off documents and computers from the Nicaragua Center for Human Rights, Segovias Leadership Institute, River Foundation, the Center for Communication Research and the Foundation for Municipal Promotion and Development. Police also raided the offices of the media outlet Confidencial, which is run by Carlos Fernando Chamorro, the son of former President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. Carlos Fernando Chamorro is also the president of the



An employee walks through a ransacked office of the non-governmental organization Popol Na Foundation, in Managua, Nicaragua, Friday, Dec. 14, 2018.

Center for Communication Research. There was no official comment from the police or government about the raids. They came after National Assembly lawmakers loyal to Ortega voted earlier in the week to cancel the organizations' legal status. At that time, Sandinista lawmakers said the groups had promoted and financed what they say was a failed coup

attempt against Ortega. Vilma Nunez, president of the human rights center, had sent a desperate plea for help Thursday evening before the raid, saying the offices were surrounded by police. "Riot police entered the office like thieves, they came in through the roof," Nunez said Friday. Her organization has been critical in documenting abuses by government se-

curity forces and paramilitaries since street protests began in April after changes to the country's social security system. The seizure of their records could potentially expose many victims to further persecution by the government. Protesters and family members came to the human rights offices to file reports about torture, disappearances and cases of people held incommuni-

cado by authorities.

Ortega reversed the social security changes, but the protests continued until students were cleared from university campuses they had been occupying and the public was frightened into curtailing public demonstrations. Meanwhile, police pursued and arrested many of the alleged leaders of the protests — in some cases just people who had occupied neighborhood roadblocks — and brought terrorism charges against them. Carlos Fernando Chamorro said police knew perfectly well that the offices of his media outlet were not part of his nonprofit Center for Communication Research, but they came anyway.

"They came to take computers, cameras, documents and papers of businesses that are not (the communication research center), but rather producers of the website Confidencial and the programs 'Tonight' and 'This Week,'" Chamorro said. "They know where the (center) offices are, and what they did was affect the work of independent media outlets to silence us." □

Associated Press

Brazil faith healer wanted by police as abuse cases mount

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A

celebrity faith healer, accused of sexual violence by hundreds of women throughout Brazil, was being sought by police Friday after a warrant was issued for his arrest.

The U.S. Embassy in Brazil put out an alert telling people to contact Brazilian authorities if they had suffered abuse at the hands of Joao Teixeira de Faria.

The allegations against de Faria surfaced last week when several individuals appeared on a Globo Television show claiming that he had been sexually violent with them or relatives. De Faria had worked as a faith healer for the last four decades in a small town in central Brazil under the name Joao de Deus. He



In this handout photo released by Agencia Brasil, spiritual healer Joao Teixeira de Faria, better known as John of God, arrives to the Dom Inacio Loyola House in Abadiania, Brazil, Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018.

Associated Press

became famous for conducting "psychic surgeries" that he said could cure diseases, including cancer. Since the first allegations, more than 300 people have contacted authorities, and the accusers include de

Faria's adult daughter, Dalva Teixeira. In an interview published Friday by Brazilian magazine Veja, Teixeira said that under the pretense of mystical treatments he abused and raped her between

the ages of 10 and 14. She said that he stopped raping her when she got pregnant by one of his employees. Teixeira said she was beaten so severely by her father that she suffered a miscarriage. "My father is a monster," she said. "In most sexual abuse cases, victims will come forward gradually as the investigation develops, but in this instance, we were flooded from the start," Luciano Miranda Meireles, one of the prosecutors assigned to a task force created to investigate de Faria, told The Associated Press. Representatives for the law office representing de Faria said that they were not making statements on the case at the time. De Faria attracted follow-

ers from around the world, all looking for spiritual guidance or cures for afflictions. He gained international exposure in 2012, when Oprah Winfrey visited his retreat to interview him for her talk show. In a since-deleted column on oprah.com, Winfrey wrote that she was overwhelmed by the experience of seeing him cut into the breast of a woman without anesthesia and that she left feeling "an overwhelming sense of peace."

Many of the de Faria's accusers say they were molested while children. A court dismissed a 2010 suit involving an alleged sexual molestation of a 16-year-old girl by Faria after the defense argued that there was not enough evidence to prosecute the case. □

LOCAL



Meet Photographer Jonathan Petit



ORANJESTAD — The cover picture of the Aruba Today Facebook page will show another picture of a local photographer every couple of months. We just love culture and would like to support our local talents, therefore Aruba Today chooses to be a platform for showcasing art. The newest cover picture is the work of the talented Jonathan Petit. Before him we had the honor to showcase pictures of photographers Michael-Anthony, Anuar Habibe and Armando Goedgedrag.

Three years ago, after receiving his first bonus from an entertainment company on the island of Aruba,

Jonathan Petit headed straight to a local technology store and purchased his first camera and lenses.

What started out as a hobby quickly became an obsession. Petit, only twenty at the time, used to rush

home from work every evening to binge watch tutorials and follow online courses in photography. He combined his learnings with his innate artistic instinct and began to share the results online. His images quickly gained attention and his obsession became his full-time job.

As his schedule filled up with photo shoots for different occasions, it didn't take him long to know he would specialize in portraits, weddings



and events. Now at twenty three, Petit is a professional photographer featured on the official aruba.com website. His style is very much concept driven as he works closely with his clients to understand their vision and help them find unique locations that reflect their sentiments.

Working on a small island never limited his creativity. When asked how come his images always have a slightly different touch, he claims to live by the rule of never repeating a success-

ful step. His inspiration is rooted in art—fashion, in particular. He is drawn to symmetry and contrast. Recognized for his dark images while photographing on a tropical island, he is always on the lookout for something different "After all", he says, "Everything has a beautiful dark twist to it, including paradise." In 2016, Petit landed his first international cover on DISfunkshion's magazine's 24th volume. His images have also been featured in Stadium Magazine, a Swedish publication which releases 600.000 copies per edition. Locally, Petit photographs for Xclusivo Magazine and Amigoe. Over the last two years, he has covered major events as the official photographer for Aruba Island Heritage and Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival. When he is not on set, Petit binge watches tutorials on cinematography. If history is any indication, his next bonus is as good as spent. (Written by Petit's friend and fan, local writer Rosabelle Illes). More information: www.callmepetit.com. □



Christmas Lights



ORANJESTAD — Christmas in Aruba would not be complete without a visit to see the Christmas Lights around the island. By just driving around on the main roads you can enjoy a variety of creativity with colorful lights being displayed on various Aruban homes. Also the majority of the roundabouts are decorated.

If you are lucky enough you might hear Christmas carols and "gaitas" at any of these locations but also at the malls and stores. Gaita is a style of Venezuelan folk music from Maracaibo in Zulia State.

It is possibly derived from gaites, the Gothic word for goat, the animal whose

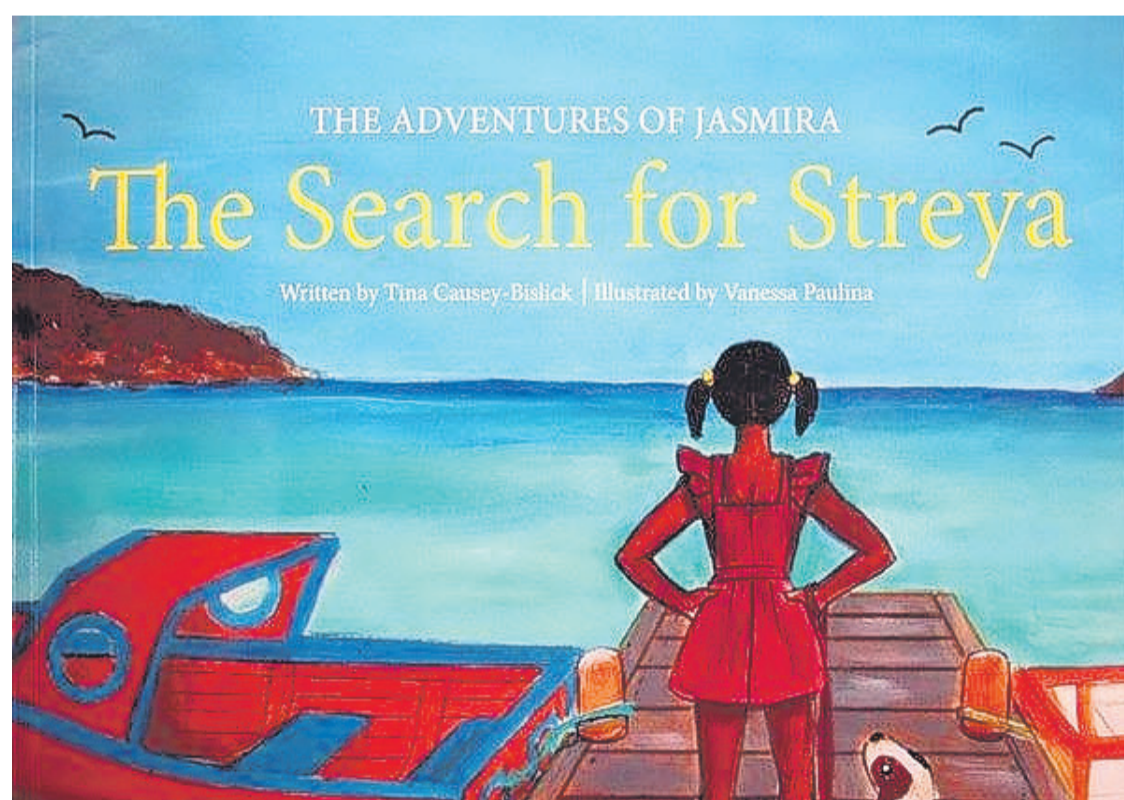
skin generally is used for the membrane of the furro instrument (kind of tambura with stick). Other instruments used in gaita include maracas, cuatro, charrasca and tambora (Venezuelan drum).

Song themes range from humorous and love songs to protest songs. The local gaita bands are composed mostly of a group of ladies who sing with angelic voices while they dance in a choreographic manner.

The map shown here will give you an overview of the most popular decorated places around the island. So hop into your car or call a taxi driver to go around and enjoy the spectacular Christmas scenes. □



The adventures of Jasmira



ORANJESTAD —The National Library is very happy with a new Children's book by award winning writer and Blogger Mrs. Tina Causey-Bislick 'The search for Streya'. This colorful book

is illustrated by visual artist and fashion designer, Vanessa Paulina.

We went through the publication by Tina and Vanessa and were very im-

pressed. Such a beautiful and rich children's book by both a professional writer and illustrator. This is just a wonderful production and a welcome addition to the collection of Caribbean



children books, says a representative of the library.

This story is about Jasmira, an eight year old and her brother, Joey, in search of a special sea turtle named Streya. When things get really scary Opa and Chico are there to help out. The book will soon be available for the young library members to read and is also for sale at local bookstores.

This is Mrs. Tina Causey-Bislick first Children's book but Jasmira will most probably have more adventures. Vanessa Paulina has illustrated children's books before and is a contributor to the annual Children's books Festival of the library. For children who would like to do a presentation at school about Sea turtles we have information, also see the page on Facebook of TurtugAruba. □



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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors of as Goodwill Ambassador. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees are Mr. Gary and Mrs. Trudy Elder, and Mr. Charles and Mrs. Sharon Nemser.

These lovely couples stated that they love the island very much, especially for the nice sandy beaches, and Aruba's sunny weather.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Village Golf and Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □





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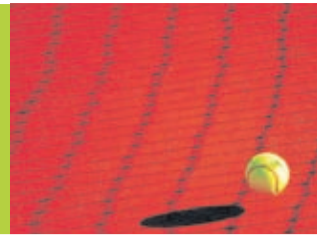
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Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received some great pictures from Carol McNally. She wrote: "Aruba to me is Fish, Friends and Fun."

McNally has been coming to Aruba almost every year for 20 consecutive years. □

SPORTS



Rays reopen ballpark site search; opening delayed until 2024

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Rays owner Stuart Sternberg will reopen the site search for a new ballpark after concluding plans for a stadium in Tampa's Ybor City area can't be finalized by this month's deadline.

Sternberg said any new ballpark can't open until at least 2024 and the team must start thinking about where it will play when its lease at St. Petersburg's Tropicana Field ends after the 2027 season.

"We'll continue to look in Tampa Bay and we'll put our efforts to that," he said during a news conference Tuesday at the winter meetings.

"One way or another, we need to figure out a where the team is going to be in 2028, if not sooner. Ideally sooner. But absolutely by 2028."

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has said the sport will not consider expansion until the Rays and Oakland Athletics get new ballparks.

The A's announced plans on Nov. 28 for a new stadium near downtown and are working to gain approvals.

Montreal and Portland, Oregon, are seeking a team. Tampa Bay has played since its first season in 1998 at what is now called Tropicana Field.

The St. Petersburg City Council voted in early 2016 to give the Rays through December 2018 to search throughout the Tampa Bay area, and the Rays unveiled a ballpark design for Ybor City in July. □



Harden's 50-point triple-double leads Rockets over Lakers

Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) reacts after dunking the ball against the Los Angeles Lakers during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018, in Houston.

Associated Press
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Salt Lake City gets go-ahead to bid for Winter Olympics

By **EDDIE PELL** and **BRADY McCOMBS**

Associated Press

Salt Lake City got the green light to bid for the Winter Olympics — most likely for 2030 — in an attempt to bring the Games back to the city that hosted in 2002 and provided the backdrop for the U.S. winter team's ascendance into an international powerhouse.

The U.S. Olympic Committee said Friday it was selecting Utah's capital, which stood out as a predictable, slam-dunk pick in a process that also included Denver and Reno, Nevada.

With venues still in place — some of them upgraded — from the 2002 Games, Salt Lake claims it can host again at a lower cost than other candidates, which aligns with the International Olympic Committee's new blueprint for the Games.

It's almost a certain bet the bid will be for 2030, though the USOC left open the possibility of other dates. There are only two bidders for 2026: from Sweden and Italy, after voters in Calgary, Alberta, rejected a proposed bid.

USOC CEO Sarah Hirshland said Denver and Salt Lake City both presented strong cases, but that the board determined Utah was the better choice due in part to the existing venues, their proximity to each other, the city's experience hosting the games and widespread community and political support. She said it minimizes the risk.



In this Feb. 9, 2002, file photo, Georg Hackl, of Germany, speeds past an Olympic logo during a practice run for the men's singles luge at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics in Park City, Utah.

"It is critical to ensure that we have the ability to create an incredible experience for athletes while at the same time managing sustainability and fiscal responsibility," Hirshland said. "It was clear to us when we were there and in what they presented that Salt Lake City very much understands the practical realities of hosting a Games, but also wants and supports what they represent." The city's selection set off celebration at the mayor's office where local leaders who worked on the plan gathered. Since 2012, Utah has said it's ready and willing to host another Olympics.

One key hurdle for Salt Lake City will be erasing memories of the bidding scandal that marred the buildup to

2002 and resulted in several IOC members losing their positions for taking bribes. Mitt Romney was brought in to steer the games through the scandal. The newly elected U.S. Senator for Utah told The Associated Press after the announcement that a series of processes put in place by the IOC will ensure no bribery scandal happens again. Romney said Salt Lake City should have a great chance at winning the bid from the IOC because it has shown it can host the games without losing money. Salt Lake City ended up with a surplus after the 2002 Games, money he used to help maintain venues it will use again if it's awarded the Olympics.

"We learned how to produce the Games for the

same cost as the revenue that came in," Romney said. "We will not put a glitzy show like Sochi or Beijing, that are reported to have cost as much \$50 billion. We will show the world that you can produce an Olympics without having the government writing the checks."

In many parts of the United States, however, the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City are remembered not for the bribery scandal but for a different reason.

After never surpassing 13 medals at a Winter Games, the U.S. used home-turf advantage, an influx of new sports and the emotion of the recent Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks to capture 34 over three weeks in Utah.

In the aftermath, Park City and other mountain

towns near Salt Lake City preserved and improved upon many of the venues, and continued hosting key international events. The freestyle world championships will be held in Park City in February.

Utah organizers say they could host the games for \$1.35 billion, some \$50 billion less than it cost in Russia for the 2014 Sochi Games, which are the most expensive games ever and stood out as a blaring warning signal that the IOC needed to streamline its bloated Olympic structure.

The exorbitant costs have changed the dynamic of Olympic bidding. In 2002, cities were trying to bribe IOC officials to award them the Olympics. These days, the IOC finds itself wanting for bidders. □



Gold medalist and new world record holder Australia's Ariarne Titmus, right, hugs USA's Leah Smith after the women's 400m freestyle at 14th FINA World Swimming Championships in Hangzhou, China Friday, Dec. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

Titmus sets world record in short-course 400 freestyle

HANGZHOU, China (AP) — Australian swimmer Ariarne Titmus broke a second world record in three days, winning gold in the women's 400-meter freestyle at the world short-course swimming championships.

The 18-year-old Titmus finished in a time of 3 minutes, 53.92 seconds on Friday.

The previous world record-holder, China's Wang Jianjiahe, took silver with a time of 3:54.56. Another Chinese swimmer,

Li Bingjie, finished third in 3:57.99.

Wang set the previous mark of 3:53.97 at a World Cup meet in Budapest in October.

Titmus broke the 200-meter freestyle short course world record on Wednesday.

Harden has 50 in triple-double, Rockets beat Lakers 126-111

By The Associated Press
HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden had 50 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists, scoring 11 points during a big fourth-quarter run to lead the Houston Rockets to a 126-111 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night.

Harden grabbed his 10th rebound with less than 90 seconds left to give him his second triple-double this season and the 37th of his career.

LeBron James finished with 29 points for the Lakers, who had won their previous two games.

It was the first meeting between these teams since Chris Paul and Rajon Rondo got into a fight on Oct. 20 that led to suspensions for both players and Brandon Ingram. There wasn't an altercation this time around in a game where Rondo sat out as he recovers from surgery to repair a broken right hand. But there was a spate of technical fouls late in the third quarter that led to the ejection of Nene.

SPURS 125, CLIPPERS 87

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 27 points and San Antonio won its fourth straight, topping Los Angeles for its largest win of the season.

Rudy Gay added 21 points and DeMar DeRozan had 14 points and seven assists for San Antonio.

The Spurs held an opponent under 100 points for the third straight game while winning the first four games of a six-game homestand. Tobias Harris had 17 points for Los Angeles and Danilo Gallinari and Avery Bradley added 15 apiece. The Clippers have lost two straight and four of five.

SUNS 99, MAVERICKS 89

PHOENIX (AP) — T.J. Warren scored a season-high 30 points and Phoenix snapped a 10-game losing streak by beating Dallas.

The Dallas loss came in the season debut of Dirk Nowitzki, who hadn't played yet while recovering from ankle surgery. When he entered the game late in the first quarter, it marked his 21st season with the Mavericks, most by a player with one team in NBA history.

Phoenix beat the Mavericks for the seventh straight time. The Suns have just five wins this season and two have come against Dallas. The Mavericks were beaten in the season opener 121-100, also in Phoenix. Both games were late tips on national television.

Dallas, which had won

three straight and eight of 10, made only 5 of 33 3-pointers.

Jamal Crawford added 17 points and Josh Jackson 14 for the Suns. Trevor Ariza had 13 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

MAGIC 97, BULLS 91

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Nikola Vucevic scored 26 points, including a tiebreaking jumper with 28 seconds remaining, and Orlando snapped a three-game losing streak in its first of two games in Mexico.

Vucevic shot 11 for 21 from the field and grabbed 10 rebounds, while D.J. Augustin added 15 points for the Magic.

Zach LaVine scored 23 points but the Bulls (6-23) lost for the 10th time in their last 11 games and remained with the worst record in the Eastern Conference.

After Lauri Markkanen tied it at 91 with 1:06 left to play, Vucevic nailed a 15-foot jumper to put the Magic ahead and Augustin iced the game with four free throws in the final seconds. The game was the NBA's 27th in Mexico, and Orlando will play Utah on Saturday. Only the United States and Canada have hosted more. □



Houston Rockets' James Harden, right, goes up for a shot as Los Angeles Lakers' Josh Hart (3) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018, in Houston. The Rockets won 126-111.

Associated Press

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The NFL draft is heading to Las Vegas for 2020

DALLAS (AP) — The NFL draft is heading to Las Vegas for 2020.

It almost certainly will arrive before the Raiders do.

"We believe the draft will be the kickoff to our inaugural season," said Raiders owner Mark Davis, who is moving the team from Oakland.

The league announced Wednesday at an owners meeting that the city where the Raiders will begin play in September 2020 will host the draft that April. "Las Vegas is the entertainment capital of the world and will provide a tremen-

dous experience for the NFL and its fans," Davis added.

The NFL began to bring the draft to different cities in 2015, when it was in Chicago.

It was held there in 2016, too, then went to Philadelphia in 2017. Last April, the Cowboys hosted it in their stadium in Arlington, Texas, and next year it will be in Nashville.

Other cities in the running for 2020 were Kansas City and Cleveland, which was partnering with the Pro Football Hall of Fame in nearby Canton, Ohio.

"We remain committed to hosting an NFL draft in Northeast Ohio and will continue to work closely with the NFL to identify the ideal opportunity for our fans, our city and the league," the Browns said in a statement.

"There are many teams and cities across the NFL who are capable of creating an exceptional draft experience for fans, including the Titans and Raiders, and we are still hopeful we may ultimately share that honor in the future."

April 23-25 will be the dates for the Las Vegas draft. □

Cowboys can prove they are real by grabbing NFC East title

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

If the Dallas Cowboys are for real, they will win their sixth straight game and clinch the NFC East at Indianapolis on Sunday.

If the Colts are for real, they will knock off the Cowboys and stamp themselves as true contenders for the AFC playoffs.

With three games remaining, Dallas (8-5) is in control of its division, thanks to a staunch defense and a revived air game with the addition of Amari Cooper. Has any veteran been more worth a first-round draft pick in a midseason trade? "I didn't know we were going to get all that, honestly," says NFL rushing leader Ezekiel Elliott about Cooper, acquired from Oakland. "But when I finally saw him in person, when I saw him catch the ball, I saw him run around and run after the catch, that's when I really realized he's truly special."

A Cowboys win does the trick in the NFC East, as would losses by Philadelphia and Washington. Dallas has almost no chance at a first-round playoff bye, though. So what? The Cowboys were 3-5 and sinking and now look where they are. Talking about sinking, Indianapolis was 1-5 two months ago. Then the Colts (7-6) won five straight before that string ended with an awful performance at Jacksonville. So they went to AFC South leader Houston, winner of nine in a row, and won.

In his comeback from a 2017 season lost to a shoulder injury, Andrew Luck has been sensational, working behind an offensive line that has gone from sieve to sturdy. Luck has been sacked 16 times, second fewest in the league.

Indy is in a four-way tie for the second AFC wild-card slot with Baltimore, Tennessee and Miami.

"Most people call this the dash for cash," Colts tight end Eric Ebron says. "So you just try to win."

The weekend began Thursday night with the Los

Angeles Chargers' 29-28 comeback victory at Kansas City.

Philip Rivers led the Char-

left was overturned on review. Officials ruled the catch did not "survive the ground;" James jostled it

loss. New Orleans has struggled offensively the past two weeks, but this is a match-



In this Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018, file photo, Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott (21) runs against the Philadelphia Eagles during the first half of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

gers to a pair of touchdowns in the final minutes, then hit Mike Williams for the go-ahead 2-point conversion with 4 seconds remaining. The Chargers (11-3) trailed 28-14 before Justin Jackson scored with 3:49 to go.

Not only did the Chargers clinch a playoff berth, they forged a first-place tie with the Chiefs (11-3) in the AFC West while ending a nine-game losing streak to their longtime division rivals.

New England (9-4) at Pittsburgh (7-5-1)

Tampa Bay (5-8) at Baltimore (7-6)

The AFC North has become a jumble with Pittsburgh's slump (three successive defeats) and Baltimore's resurgence. These matchups don't bode well for the Steelers, especially if Ben Roethlisberger's rib and James Conner's ankle are factors.

The Patriots have won the past five meetings. Of course, the 2017 version is unforgettable: Roethlisberger threw an interception in the end zone with 5 seconds remaining after tight end Jesse James' apparent go-ahead touchdown with 29 seconds

after stretching across the goal line.

So the league amended the rule in the offseason to allow some movement by the ball if a receiver maintains possession.

New England can clinch its 10th straight AFC East title with a win or tie and a Miami loss or tie.

Baltimore, meanwhile, will sit the now healthy Joe Flacco behind first-round pick Lamar Jackson, who has won three of his four starts with Flacco (hip) sidelined. The Ravens' ground game has been sensational with the rookie behind center: Jackson has 336 yards rushing over the past four games, the most by any NFL quarterback in his first four starts during the Super Bowl era. Baltimore also is allowing an NFL-low 18.5 points per game.

Philadelphia (6-7) at Los Angeles Rams (11-2)

New Orleans (11-2) at Carolina (6-7), Monday

Top seed in the NFC is what it's all about for the Saints and Rams, who lost to New Orleans this season. The Rams and Saints each clinch a first-round bye with a win and a Chicago loss or tie, or a tie and a Chicago

up Drew Brees enjoys. The Saints beat the Panthers three times last season, including the playoffs. Brees has completed 76.7 percent of his passes for 2,714 yards with 21 touchdowns and four interceptions in the past 10 NFC South games, and has 46 TDs and 20 INTs vs. the Panthers, who have lost their past five overall. But Carolina is 5-1 at home. With the Rams coming off the lowest-scoring performance under Sean McVay, a 15-6 loss to the Bears, they try to avoid falling in consecutive games with McVay in charge. Indeed, he has won at least two straight after all seven of his career defeats.

Eagles QB Carson Wentz is battling a back injury. He tore up his knee at LA last year and missed his team's run to the championship. Houston (9-4) at New York Jets (4-9), Saturday

QB Deshaun Watson has thrown at least one TD pass in 18 straight games, while top target DeAndre Hopkins has caught at least one TD pass in five straight road games. He and Watson have connected for 16 TD passes in 20 games they've played together.

New York got back rookie quarterback Sam Darnold and he put together his first fourth-quarter comeback to beat Buffalo last week and end a five-game slide. Tennessee (7-6) at New York Giants (5-8)

The other weekend game at MetLife Stadium; notice the neutral end zones.

New York once was 1-7, yet has a very long shot at making the playoffs. A retooled offensive line has provided time for Eli Manning to show he isn't over the hill, and for rookie running back Saquon Barkley to go wild.

Tennessee has had at least 400 yards in each of the past two games, and hasn't managed three straight since Oct. 1-16, 2000. It has allowed the fewest touchdowns in the league this season, 27.

Green Bay (5-7-1) at Chicago (9-4)

Chicago's last-to-first climb in the NFC North could be finalized against its biggest rival. A win over Green Bay, which leads the NFL's longest series 97-94-6, gets it done. So does a Minnesota loss or tie.

The Bears lead the NFL in turnover differential (plus 13) and interceptions (25). Green Bay, under interim coach Joe Philbin, must win out for any chance to play in January. The Packers have won eight in a row at Soldier Field and nine of the past 10 meetings overall. But with a win, Chicago would finish 7-1 at home for the first time since 2005.

Miami (7-6) at Minnesota (6-6-1)

Miami's stunning "Drake Escape" victory against New England kept it viable in the AFC playoff chase. The Dolphins are second in the NFL with 19 interceptions and tied for third with 25 takeaways. □

Rivers leads Chargers to last-second comeback win over Kansas City

By **DAVE SKRETTA**
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Arrowhead Stadium was already emptying by the time Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers jogged to the locker room, triumphantly waving his hand as a satisfying cascade of boos washed over him. He had finally beaten the Kansas City Chiefs. It sounded perfect. Rivers led Los Angeles on a feverish fourth-quarter comeback Thursday night, capped by a debatable pass-interference call, a tense video review of the last touchdown and the gutsy decision to try a 2-point conversion. And for the first time in years against Kansas City, everything turned out perfectly for Rivers and the Chargers in a 29-28 victory that clinched their playoff spot. "This was big. Here or at home, whatever," Rivers said, "we needed to beat these guys." The Chargers (11-3) trailed 28-14 when Justin Jackson's touchdown run with 3:49 to go gave them a chance. They quickly got the ball back from Patrick

Mahomes and the NFL's highest-scoring offense, and Rivers led a tense final drive that included a fourth-down dart to Travis Benjamin to keep it alive. That crucial penalty on Kendall Fuller in the back of the end zone gave the Chargers the ball at the 1, and Rivers found Mike Williams along the sideline on the next play. And when his TD catch with 4 seconds left was confirmed, coach Anthony Lynn sent his offense back onto the field. Williams hauled in the conversion to end five years' worth of frustration. "We didn't come here to tie. We came here to win. So to me it was a no-brainer," said Lynn, whose team became the first since Minnesota in Week 15 of the 2002 season to win with a 2-point conversion in the final 10 seconds of regulation. The comeback allowed Los Angeles to forge a first-place tie in the AFC West, though the Chiefs (11-3) hold the tiebreaker with a better division record. More satisfying was the simple fact that Rivers and the Chargers had finally



Los Angeles Chargers wide receiver Mike Williams (81) runs into the end zone between Kansas City Chiefs defensive back Daniel Sorensen, right, and safety Ron Parker, left, during the second half of an NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo., Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

snapped their nine-game losing streak against Kansas City. They hadn't beaten the Chiefs since 2013, the last year they made the playoffs. "Oh, it's satisfying," Benjamin said. "We talked about it. We knew it had been a couple years and we wanted to go into this game and change that and we did." Rivers threw for 313 yards and two touchdowns with two interceptions, and Williams had seven catches for 76 yards and two scores while adding another on the ground. Jackson ran for 58 yards and a touchdown

in place of the injured Melvin Gordon and Austin Ekeler. Mahomes was held to just 243 yards and two touchdowns for Kansas City, and his inability to pick up a first down in the closing minutes proved costly. The Chiefs forced the Chargers to burn two timeouts on their last drive, but Mahomes was sacked by Isaac Rochell and Kansas City had to punt. The Chiefs never got the ball back on offense. "They found a way to win and we didn't," Mahomes said. "You have to find a way in this league."

Hyped by the return of star safety Eric Berry, it looked for a while as if the Chiefs would simply resume their vexation of Rivers at Arrowhead. Steven Nelson leaped to snag a jump ball for a pick on the second play of the game, and Rivers tossed another just before halftime. Mahomes and Co. took advantage of their early momentum. Kansas City breezed downfield after Nelson's interception, and the young MVP candidate threw a dart to Demarcus Robinson — while in the grasp of Chargers safety Adrian Phillips — for a 7-0 lead. □

Eagles' Wentz has stress fracture in back; no surgery needed

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Carson Wentz's back injury means Nick Foles gets another opportunity to rescue the Philadelphia Eagles. Eagles coach Doug Pederson said Friday that Wentz does not require surgery for a stress fracture in his back and the injury could take up to three months to heal. The quarterback is listed as "doubtful" for Sunday night's game against the Rams in Los Angeles and is scheduled to travel with the team. Foles wasn't available to speak to reporters, but teammates expect the Super Bowl MVP to start. "He's the guy and it's my job to create as much



In this Sept. 23, 2018, file photo, Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz (11) and quarterback Nick Foles (9) throw before an NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

separation for him or if he gives me an opportunity and I am covered, go get it," wide receiver Nelson Agholor said after practice.

Pederson is optimistic about Wentz's recovery. "The fact that he doesn't need surgery on this is the best news you could possi-

bly have on anybody that has a stress fracture or stress injury," Pederson said. "If we put him out there, there has to be 100 percent that there's no risk of anything further." The team isn't certain when Wentz got hurt and Pederson said the injury developed over time. A test on Tuesday revealed his condition. "He's one of the toughest dudes I know, but of course it's going to affect him," wide receiver Jordan Matthews said after Thursday's practice. "You have to be able to twist, you have to be able to turn. Carson is probably the best quarterback also throwing off the run, so that affects your running, too. He's wearing a knee

brace. This guy is playing through a lot." Foles hasn't taken a snap in a game since Week 2. He took over in Week 14 last season after Wentz tore two ligaments in his left knee during a comeback win on the road against the Rams. Foles led Philadelphia to its first NFL title since 1960 and started the first two games this season, going 1-1. "Nick is a Super Bowl MVP quarterback for a reason and we've got a ton of confidence that he's going to give it his all like he always does," said tight end Zach Ertz, who caught the winning touchdown pass from Foles in Philadelphia's 41-33 win over New England in February. □

Vasilevskiy strong in return, Lightning top Maple Leafs 4-1

By The Associated Press
TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Andrei Vasilevskiy made 48 saves in his return from a broken left foot and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-1 on Thursday night in a matchup of the NHL's top two teams. Alex Killorn and Tyler Johnson both scored for Tampa Bay during the final 36 seconds of the second period to make it 4-1. Vasilevskiy, who missed the previous 14 games, stopped all 23 shots he faced in the period. Anthony Cirelli and Nikita Kucherov also had goals for the Lightning (25-7-1), who have won eight in a row and lead Toronto by eight points in the Atlantic Division. The franchise record is a nine-game winning streak in 2016. Toronto got a goal from Kasperii Kapanen, and Frederik Andersen stopped 17 shots. The Maple Leafs have lost three of four (1-2-1) after a five-game winning streak.

SABRES 3, COYOTES 1
BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Jeff Skinner scored his 22nd goal of the season as Buffalo defeated Arizona. Casey Mittelstadt and Evan Rodrigues also had goals for the Sabres, who won their second straight following a five-game skid. Carter Hutton returned after miss-

ing Buffalo's previous two games with an upper-body injury and made 25 saves. The Sabres improved to 11-3-2 at home, matching their win total from last season at KeyBank Center. Christian Fischer scored for Arizona and Darcy Kuemper stopped 30 shots. The Coyotes have lost four in a row after a four-game winning streak.

BLUE JACKETS 4, KINGS 1
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Artemi Panarin scored twice, Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 29 shots and Columbus topped Los Angeles. Lukas Sedlak and Josh Anderson also scored and Cam Atkinson assisted on both of Panarin's goals as the Blue Jackets snapped a two-game skid and held onto second place in the Metropolitan Division, three points behind Washington. Dustin Brown had the lone goal and Jonathan Quick made 37 saves for the injury-ravaged Kings, who have lost three in a row and seven of their last nine while slipping to the bottom of the Pacific Division.

CANADIENS 6, HURRICANES 4
MONTREAL (AP) — Jeff Petry scored twice and Casey Price made 27 saves for his fourth consecutive victory as Montreal got past Carolina.



Tampa Bay Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy (88) makes a save on a shot by the Toronto Maple Leafs during the first period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018, in Tampa, Fla. Associated Press

Matthew Peca, Brendan Gallagher, Artturi Lehkonen and Andrew Shaw also scored for the Canadiens, who have won four of five. Phillip Danault and Kenny Agostino each had two assists.

Andrei Svechnikov had two goals, and Jaccob Slavin and Sebastian Aho also scored for the Hurricanes. Petr Mrazek made 34 saves in place of injured Curtis McElhinney.

WILD 5, PANTHERS 1
ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Nino Niederreiter scored twice, Ryan Suter had three assists and Devan Dubnyk finished with 30 saves as Minnesota downed Florida. Eric Staal, Zach Parise and Jonas Brodin also scored for the Wild, who were coming off a 7-1 win over Montreal on Tuesday. Niederreiter added an assist and has four goals in the last three games. Denis Malgin scored his

second goal of the season and James Reimer stopped 21 shots but the Panthers dropped their fourth straight.

PREDATORS 4, CANUCKS 3, OT
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Colton Sissons scored 3:05 into overtime to give Nashville a victory over Vancouver.

Ryan Hartman, Nick Bonino and Calle Jarnkrok also scored and Pekka Rinne made 19 saves for the Predators, winners of two straight.

Jay Beagle, Brock Boeser and Bo Horvat had the goals for the Canucks, who had won three in a row. Vancouver tied it with 43.5 seconds remaining in the third period when Horvat, parked at the far post, slipped one past Rinne. The Canucks were short-handed at the time and had pulled goalie Anders Nilsson for an extra skater.

In overtime, Bonino sent a pass from the left boards to Sissons skating through the slot and he elevated a shot over Nilsson, who finished with 30 saves.

SHARKS 3, STARS 2
SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Timo Meier scored two goals and Logan Couture had two assists in San Jose's win over Dallas.

Meier's 17th and 18th goals sent the Sharks to their third straight victory and fifth in six games. Meier has four goals in his last two games and 10 points (five goals, five assists) in his past six contests.

Joe Thornton also scored and Martin Jones made 20 saves for the Sharks. San Jose prevented a three-game season series sweep by Dallas, which had won three straight and six of seven against the Sharks. Dallas has lost three in a row overall after winning its previous four. □

FIS intends to strip Luitz of win for using oxygen mask

By ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer
SELVA DI VAL GARDENA, Italy (AP) — The International Ski Federation intends to strip German racer Stefan Luitz of his first World Cup win for using an oxygen mask but will not seek further punishment. FIS secretary general Sarah Lewis said on Friday the German Ski Association has been notified that the rules call for "disqualification from the race at the event where the offense



Germany's Stefan Luitz reacts after the second run of a Men's World Cup giant slalom skiing race Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, in Beaver Creek, Colo. Associated Press

occurred." Racing in a giant slalom in Beaver Creek, Colorado, this month that started at an altitude of 10,340 feet (3,152 meters), Luitz was seen using an oxygen tank between runs. He won by retaining his first-run lead. The victory ended runner-up Marcel Hirscher's five-race winning streak in the event but the Olympic champion in giant slalom could yet be awarded the win. FIS anti-doping rules state

oxygen tanks cannot be brought to race venues, and "competition results achieved after the use of the equipment shall be automatically disqualified." "It" part of the anti-doping and medical guide regulation but it's related to a prohibited method so it's very different from blood doping or taking of anabolic steroids and different offenses are categorized in different ways," Lewis said. "This is just a breach of the regulations." □

Canelo cannot afford slip in Garden bout against Fielding

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In an odd way, there is more pressure on Canelo Alvarez when he fights Saturday night against unheralded Rocky Fielding than there was in his two matchups with Gennady Golovkin.

A loss to the WBA super middleweight champion not only could taint his decision over Golovkin this year, it could significantly muddle the future for the Mexican star.

Alvarez moves up from 160 pounds to 168 in search of a third division title, which would place him in special company among his countrymen — only eight others have held three division crowns. That's the quest at Madison Square Garden against Fielding, a heavy underdog despite owning the belt.

"For me it is very big to enter that select group of Mexicans who have become three-division world champions," Alvarez said. "It is what is motivating me. It is very important to enter into that list of very big fighters from Mexico ... to enter history, that is what I want, to make history. Making history, the door is almost open. So I am very motivated to win this fight."

As for moving up in weight but down in class — no one is comparing England's Fielding (27-1, 15 knockouts) to Golovkin — Alvarez insists there are no worries. He's not going to be looking ahead to his 2019 schedule just yet.

"I never like to get overconfident, whether I am the favorite or not," said Alvarez, who is 50-1-2, the only defeat to Floyd Mayweather five years ago, when Alvarez wasn't quite ready for such a master boxer. "To me it is not important who is favored. For boxing, one punch can change everything; anything can happen in the ring."

I get my confidence in training for what I can do in the ring."

What he can do in the ring is punch with power, defend with elan, attack quickly or



In this Oct. 17, 2018, file photo, boxers Canelo Alvarez, left, and Rocky Fielding pose for photos at Madison Square Garden in New York.

stealthily. It's not likely that Fielding, making his first title defense, has seen anything like Canelo in the ring. Fielding upset Tyron Zeuge in Germany on July 14 with a fifth-round knockout. This is his shot at the big time at age 31 — sure sounds like a Rocky story.

So while the only time he's seen a sports event at the Garden was a Knicks game three years ago — Alvarez also is making his MSG debut — Fielding isn't letting on if he has any stage fright.

"You know, I went to Germany and no one gave me a chance there," he said with a smile. "It's the same here. No one gives me a chance here, but I've prepared well, I believe in myself. I've come here as a champion."

Alvarez, 28, comes in as a much more heralded champion. Some consider him the best in the business these days, and he's

got some impressive victories on his resume. In addition to a win and draw over Golovkin, Alvarez has beaten Miguel Cotto, Amir Khan, Erislandy Lara, Shane Mosley and Austin Trout. More than a few observers question whether Fielding could handle any of them, let alone Canelo. But Alvarez is going from middleweight to super middleweight, which can be dicey.

"That's the risk, to be mov-

ing up in weight, to fight somebody who is used to fighting stronger fighters, who is used to taking stronger punches," Alvarez said. "I know the challenge, but I like the challenge, and I am happy for it."

Inevitably, Alvarez gets asked about a third bout with Golovkin, considering how close their previous two fights were, and the money and attention that would be there. He doesn't exactly shrug when ques-

tioned about it, but it's clear Triple G is not foremost on his mind.

For now.

"It is no secret we want to win this fight and then come back to our division, 160 pounds," he said.

"But we can make combinations between 160 and 168. We will see what the future has ... but I can guarantee we will go back to 160 pounds."

"We had two good fights ... maybe in 2019 we can have a third fight. We'll see. Right now, I am 100 percent focused on Saturday. What I do know is I will fight in May and September next year. What I will do is give great fights to the public."

NOTES: The main undercard fight of Canada's David Lemieux against Tureano Johnson has been canceled after Lemieux was hospitalized with dehydration issues while trying to make weight.

A former middleweight champion, Lemieux always has struggled to make the 160-pound limit. But he was in line for a possible fight with Alvarez if he fought impressively on Saturday.

In his last fight, he knocked out Gary O'Sullivan in the first round on the Alvarez-Golovkin card in September. □

Associated Press



Management and staff extends its deepest condolences to the family of

Mrs. Anna Maria Rivero-Girigori

Better known as: "Mem"

*13-01-1933 - †12-12-2018

In life, mother of our Laundry Supervisor
Filomena Kelly

We wish Filomena and Family peace and comfort in these difficult times.

Those who bloom in the hearts of others never fade away.



Google accelerates Plus closure after another privacy lapse

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer
SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) —

Google is still having trouble protecting the personal information on its Plus service, prodding the company to accelerate its plans to shut down a little-used social network created to compete against Facebook.

A privacy flaw that inadvertently exposed the names, email addresses, ages and other personal information of 52.5 million Google Plus users last month convinced Google to close the service in April instead of August, as previously announced. Google revealed the new closure date and its latest privacy lapse in a Monday blog post.

It's the second time in two months that Google has disclosed the existence of a problem that enabled unauthorized access to Plus profiles. In October, the company acknowledged finding a privacy flaw affecting 500,000 Plus users that it waited more than six months to disclose.

Google moved more quickly to own up to the



In this Dec. 4, 2017 file photo, people walk by Google offices in New York.

most recent privacy problem on Plus. This time around, the names, email addresses, ages and other personal information of the affected Plus users were exposed for six days in November before it was fixed. No financial information or passwords were visible to intruders, according to Google. The company also said it hasn't seen evidence indicating that unauthor-

ized users who accessed Plus through the inadvertent peephole have missed used any of the personal information.

Even if the latest privacy gaffe on Plus didn't cause any major damage, it nevertheless marks another embarrassing incident for Google. The company's business model relies on it being seen as a trustworthy guardian of the per-

sonal information it collects about the billions of people who use its search engine, Gmail, Chrome browser, maps, and Android software for smartphones.

Like Facebook, Google makes most of its money by selling ads that draw upon what the company learns about the interests, habits and locations of people while they're using its free services.

Associated Press

Google's privacy issues on Plus are likely to be a topic that U.S. lawmakers delve into Tuesday, when company CEO Sundar Pichai is scheduled to appear before a House committee. Pichai's appearance comes more than three months after he turned down an invitation to testify in August, to the consternation of some lawmakers. Some members of Congress are now mulling whether tougher regulations to curb the power of Google, Facebook and other technology companies are needed in addition demanding tighter controls over digital privacy.

Facebook has had even more trouble guarding the personal information that it scoops up on its social networking service, which now has more than 2.2 billion users. The most glaring breakdown emerged in March when Facebook acknowledged the personal information of as many as 87 million of its users had been shared with Cambridge Analytica, a data mining firm affiliated with President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign. □

Facebook says bug may have exposed photos on 7M users

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer
NEW YORK (AP) —

Facebook said Friday that a software bug affecting nearly 7 million users may have exposed a broader set of photos to app developers than what those users intended.

Although this doesn't mean the photos were actually seen by anyone, the revelation of the bug offers another reminder of just how much data Facebook has on its 2.27 billion users and how often these sorts of slipups happen.

In a blog post, the company said the bug affected 6.8 million people who granted permission for third-party apps to access the photos. Facebook said the users' photos may have been exposed for 12 days in September and that the bug was fixed.



People talk inside a Facebook "pop-up" trailer in New York's Bryan Park on Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

Generally when people give apps access to their photos, it means only photos posted on their Facebook page.

Facebook says the bug potentially gave developers access to other photos, such as those shared on

Marketplace or on Facebook Stories. The bug also affected photos that people uploaded to Facebook but chose not to post or could not post for technical reasons.

The problem comes in a year fraught with privacy

scandals and other problems for the world's biggest social network.

Revelations that the data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica improperly accessed data from as many as 87 million users led to congressional hearings and changes in what sorts of data Facebook lets outside developers access. In June, a bug affecting privacy settings led some users to post publicly by default regardless of their previous settings. This bug affected as many as 14 million users over several days in May.

On Thursday, to counter the bad rap it's gotten around privacy as of late, Facebook hosted a one-day "pop-up" to talk to users about their settings and whatever else may be on their mind.

Chief Privacy Officer Erin Egan was on hand to an-

swer questions. Asked by a reporter what grade she'd give Facebook for its privacy work in the past year, she said "B." By 2019, she said she hopes the improvements will result in an "A."

Privacy experts might call it grade inflation. In any case, the company has its work cut out before it makes the top grade.

With two more weeks left of the year, it's possible there's still time for another privacy kerfuffle at Facebook. While the scandals don't seem to have affected the company's massive user base, growth has slowed.

And the company has had to increase how much it spends on privacy and security, which put a dent in its bottom line and in August contributed to a stock price plunge. □

The debt threat: Business debt, and worries about it, are up

By **STAN CHOE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Homeowners appear to have learned the lesson of the Great Recession about not taking on too much debt. There is some concern that Corporate America didn't get the message.

For much of the past decade, companies have borrowed at super-low interest rates and used the money to buy back stock, acquire other businesses and refinance old debt. The vast majority of companies are paying their bills on time, thanks in large part to profits that have surged since the economy emerged from the Great Recession nine and a half years ago.

But with interest rates rising and U.S. economic growth expected to slow next year, worries are building from Washington to Wall Street that corporate debt is approaching potentially dangerous levels. U.S. corporate debt has grown by nearly two-thirds since 2008 to more than \$9 trillion and, along with government debt, has ballooned much faster than other parts of the bond market. Investors are most concerned about companies at the weaker end of the financial-strength scale — those considered most likely to default or to get downgraded to "junk" status should a recession hit.

"I've been more worried about the bond market than the equity market," said Kirk Hartman, global chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Asset Management. "I think at some point, all the leverage in the system is going to rear its ugly head."

Consider General Electric, which said in early October it would record a big charge related to its struggling power unit, one that ended up totaling \$22 billion. Both Moody's and Standard & Poor's subsequently downgraded GE's credit rating to three notches above "speculative" grade, which indicates a higher risk of default.

GE, with about \$115 billion in total borrowings, is part of a growing group of com-

panies, which hurts their ability to repay their debts, which could lead to

egory of bond funds to an average loss of 4.7 percent. In his speech, Powell said

or relatively weak finances. These loans have been popular with investors in recent years because they often have what are called floating rates, so they pay more in interest when rates are rising.

Paul Massaro, portfolio manager for floating-rate strategies at T. Rowe Price, says he's still positive about this market in general. But his team of analysts has been finding more warning flags in offerings, where the terms of the deal may be overly friendly to borrowers and allow them to amass more debt than they should.

It's gotten to the point where Massaro is participating in about 15 percent of all offerings today, down from 30 percent a few years ago.

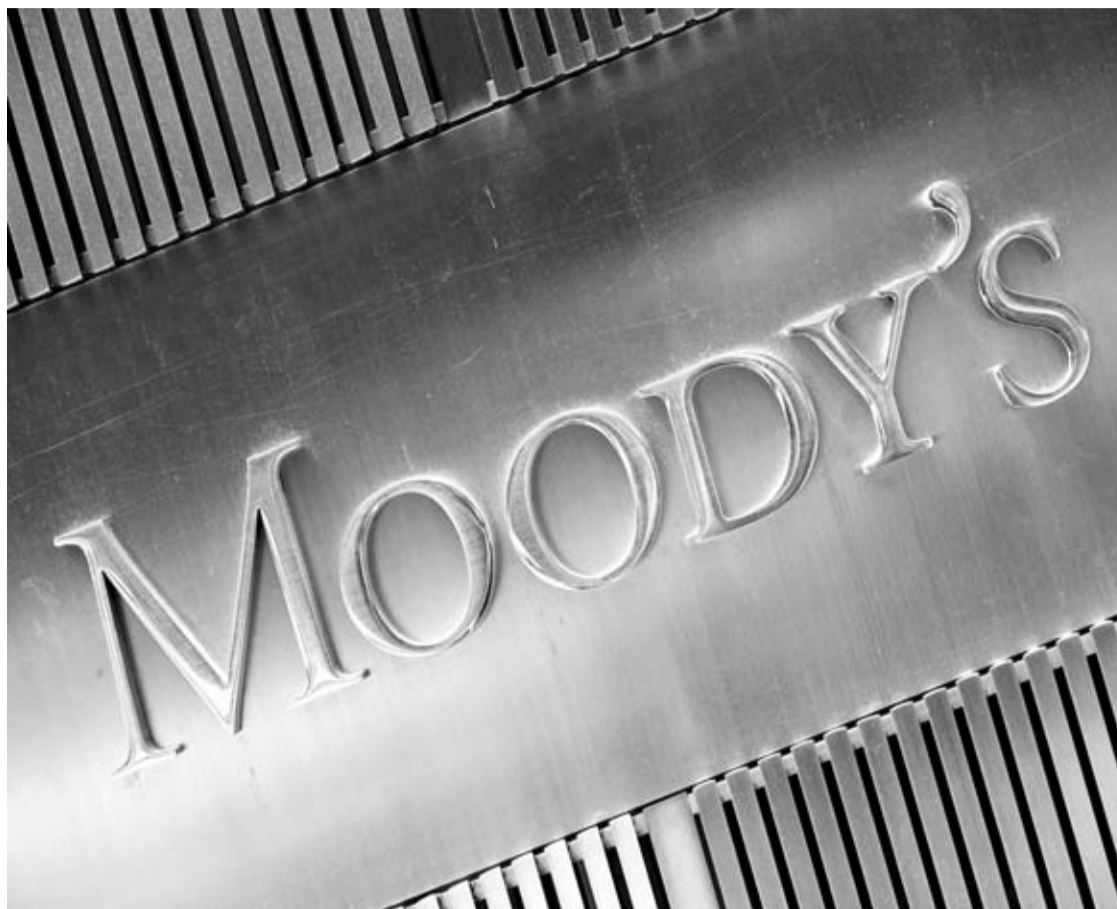
Investors have largely been willing to stomach higher risk because they've been starved for income following years of very low interest rates.

As a result, some bonds that by many accounts look like risky junk bonds are trading at prices and yields that should be reserved for higher-quality bonds, say Tom McCauley and Yoav Sharon, who run the \$976.3 million Driehaus Active Income fund. To take advantage, they're increasingly "shorting" corporate bonds, which are trades that pay off if the bonds' prices fall.

They recently began shorting bonds of a packaged goods company with a "BBB" rating that borrowed to help pay for a large acquisition, for example. A "BBB" rating is at the lower end of investment grade, and a drop to "BB" would send it into junk status.

With so much debt, McCauley and Sharon believe that it's at risk of getting downgraded to junk and is not paying enough in yield to compensate for its risk.

"As we get into the later stages of the cycle, the sins of the early stages of the cycle tend to start showing up," said Sharon. "We think that's where we are today." □



This August 2010 file photo shows a sign for Moody's Corp. in New York.

Associated Press

panies concentrated at the lower end of investment-grade. Other high-profile names in this area within a few notches of junk grade include General Motors and Verizon Communications. They make up nearly 45 percent of the Bloomberg Barclays Credit index, more than quadruple their proportion during the early 1970s.

Credit-rating agencies say downgrades for GE, GM or Verizon aren't imminent. But the concern for them, and broadly for this swelling group of businesses, is if profits start falling or the economy hits a recession. If those companies do drop below investment grade, they'd be what investors call "fallen angels," and they can trigger waves of selling. Many mutual funds and other investors are required to own only high-quality, investment-grade bonds — so they would have to sell any bonds that get cut to junk.

The forced selling would lead to a drop in bond prices, which could result in higher borrowing costs

even more selling.

Even the chairman of the Federal Reserve has taken notice of the rise in corporate debt. Jerome Powell said in a recent speech that business borrowing usually rises when the economy is growing. But he said it's concerning that, over the last year, the companies increasing their borrowing the most are those already with high debt and interest burdens.

To be sure, many bond fund managers say companies were smart to borrow hefty sums at low rates. And at the moment, there are no outward signs of danger. The default rate for junk-rated corporate bonds was 2.6 percent last month, which is lower than the historical average, and S&P Global Fixed Income Research expects it to fall in upcoming months.

Even if the economy does fall into a recession, fund managers say losses won't be to the same scale as 2008 when the financial crisis sent the S&P 500 to a drop of nearly 37 percent and the most popular cat-

he doesn't see the weaker parts of the corporate debt market undermining the financial system in the event of an economic downturn, at least "for now."

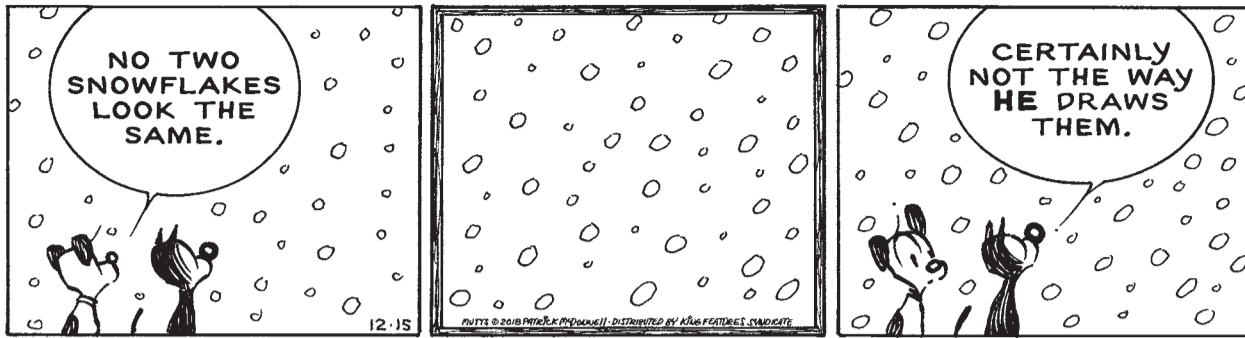
Other investors see the market's growing worries as premature. Companies are still making record profits, which allow them to repay their debts, and consumer confidence is still high.

"There is a story out there that there's a recession coming very soon, and you had better head for the hills," said Warren Pierson, deputy chief investment officer at Baird Advisors. "We think that's a pretty early call. We don't see recession on the horizon."

That's why he and Mary Ellen Stanek, who run bond mutual funds at Baird, haven't given up on corporate bonds, even if they've moderated how much they own.

But critics see some echoes of the financial crisis in today's loosening lending standards. Consider leveraged loans, a section of the market that makes loans to companies with lots of debt

Mutts



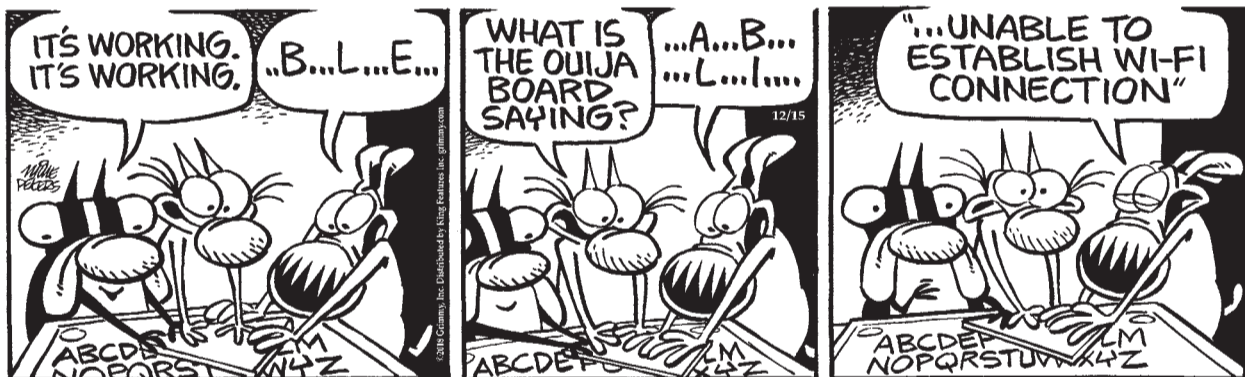
6 Chix



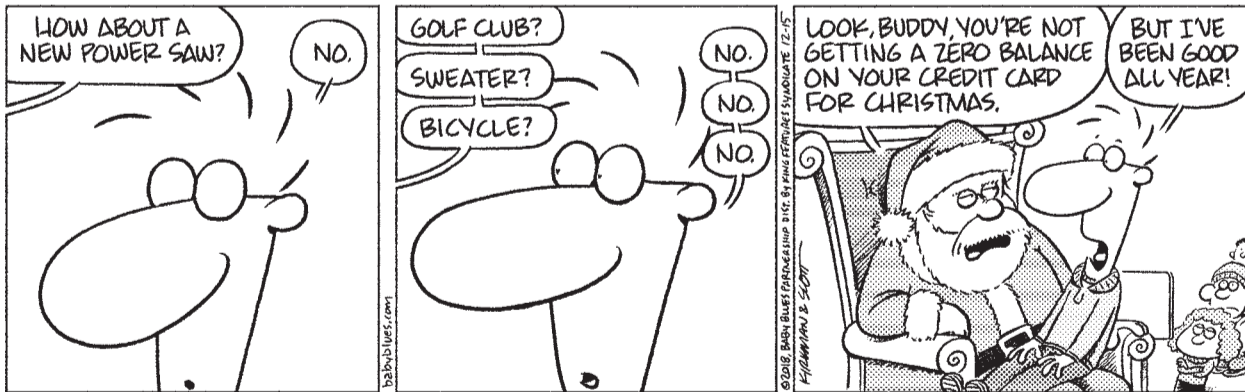
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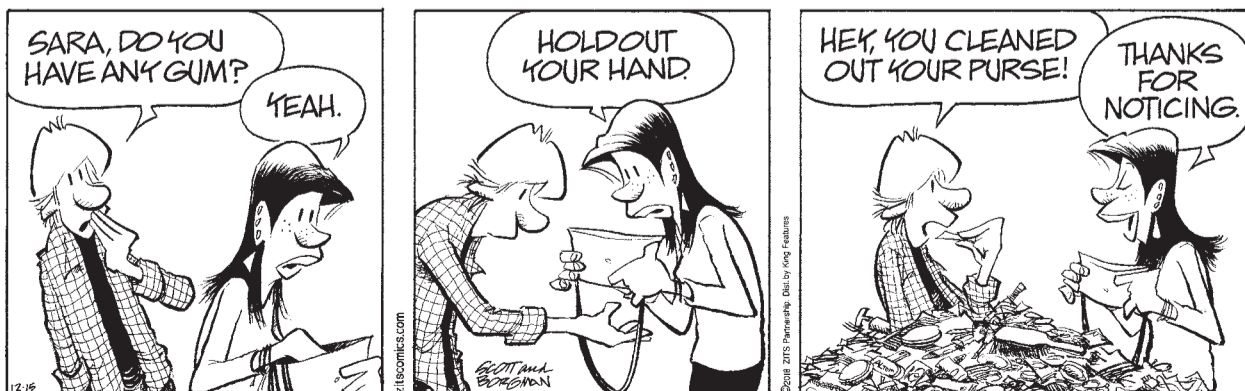
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3		2				
	7				8		6	
		8				7		1
	2		6		5			
8								3
			4		7		9	
9		5				6		
	6		2				5	
				4		9		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

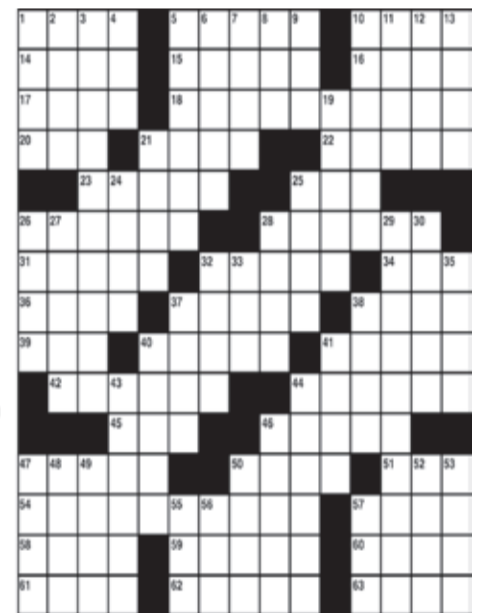
12/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	8	2	9	7	6	5	3	1	4
	7	3	1	2	4	8	9	5	6
	5	4	6	9	3	1	2	7	8
	9	8	2	1	5	4	7	6	3
	6	5	3	8	7	9	4	2	1
	1	7	4	6	2	3	8	9	5
	3	9	7	5	8	6	1	4	2
	2	6	8	4	1	7	5	3	9
	4	1	5	3	9	2	6	8	7

ACROSS

- Obey
- Flat-bottomed boats
- Horse's gait
- Out of town
- Outer garment
- "Ticket to ..."
- Beatles song
- Partner
- Scolds
- ... walked out in the streets of Laredo ...
- Black & Aegean
- Uneasy feeling
- "Sesame Street" fellow
- One of the Seven Dwarfs
- Small aggressive chicken
- Woods
- Egypt's ... Dam
- One of the Judds
- Reasonable bedtime
- Hideaway
- Wild brawl
- Florida's ... Canaveral
- Baby goat
- Lunch & brunch
- Procrastinator's word
- Take back one's statement
- Misrepresented
- Most common conjunction
- Cowboy's rope
- VP Agnew
- Gentlemen
- Fishbowl cleaner's need
- Deep cut
- Rudolph or Angelou
- Grows old
- Eyore's creator
- Get ready, for short
- Prescriptions, for short
- Nervous
- Jekyll's alter ego



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/15/18

3 Across the country	POPS	FROG	SLOW
4 Coloring liquid	AMOUR	LULL	VINE
5 Shriek	MILNE	INDIGENCE	
6 Transparent	STY	PAR	MELTED
7 Klutz's word	GHOST	PET	
8 Armed conflict	PARISH	ASSETS	
9 Enjoy a snow sport	IRATE	TEPEE	HAM
10 In a ... hypnotized	LOPS	COWED	BETA
11 Groom's purchase	EMH	GORED	CORAL
12 Likelihood	ASSURE	RELENT	
13 Exam	CID	FONDA	
19 Polynesian of New Zealand	STROLL	LBS	FTD
21 Read over quickly	COURTENEY	UNTIE	
24 Night light	ABLE	SORE	SEEMS
25 Capitol's roof	TEED	STAR	TREK

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12/15/18

DOWN

- Family member
- "Wish ... Here"; Zach Braff film

- tea
- Gritty residue
- Observed
- Gift wrapper's need
- "I ... Man of Constant Sorrow"
- Cheap metal
- Speedometer letters

Washington governor proposes major steps for orca recovery

By **GENE JOHNSON**
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — With scientists warning that the Northwest's beloved killer whales are on the brink of extinction, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced dramatic plans Thursday to help the population recover — including \$1.1 billion in spending and a partial whale-watching ban.

"We are undertaking a herculean effort to save these iconic creatures," Inslee said in a prepared statement. "It will take action at every level of the environment across our entire state."

Starved by a dearth of salmon, poisoned by contaminants, and buffeted by vessel noise that hinders their hunting and communication, the orcas that live in the waters between Washington state and Canada's Vancouver Island have failed to reproduce successfully in the past three years. One grieving whale carried her dead calf on her head for 17 days last summer in an apparent effort to revive it. There are 74 left in the population, the lowest number since the 1970s, when hundreds of orcas were captured in the region and more than 50 were kept for aquarium display. Inslee, who is mulling a

Democratic presidential run in 2020, detailed the plans as part of his announcement of his priorities for the 2019-2021 state budget. The money would go toward protecting and restoring habitat for salmon, especially chinook, the orcas' favored prey; boosting production from salmon hatcheries; storm-water cleanup; and quieting vessel traffic.

Money would also support developing plans to move or kill seals and sea lions that feast on Columbia River salmon where they get blocked by dams or other structures, and changing state water quality standards to allow more water to be spilled over dams, helping young salmon reach the ocean.

Inslee called for a new capital gains tax and an increase in business taxes to help cover the tab.

The governor also said he intends to ban commercial whale-watching of the local endangered orcas — known as the southern residents — for three years. He stressed that whale-watching will be allowed for other whales in Washington waters, including nonresident orcas that pass through, and that the state would undertake efforts to promote the industry to offset any lost business. □

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Scientists scour WWI shipwreck to solve military mystery

CHRISTINA LARSON

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A hundred years ago, a mysterious explosion hit the only major U.S. warship to sink during World War I. Now the Navy believes it has the answer to what doomed the USS San Diego: An underwater mine set by a German submarine cruising in waters just miles from New York City.

That's the conclusion of an investigation by scientists, archaeologists and historians convened by the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command. Last summer, the researchers sent an unmanned underwater vessel to inspect the site off New York's Long Island. Their analysis ruled out a torpedo and sabotage, two other possible scenarios.

The San Diego was sailing to New York on July 19, 1918, when an external explosion near the engine room shook the armored cruiser. Water rushed into the hull. Within minutes, the 500-foot warship began to capsize. Weighed down with 2,900 tons of coal for a planned voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, the vessel sank in less than a half hour. Six crew members died.

"The explosion felt like a dull heavy thud," Capt. Harley Hannibal Christy, commander of the USS San Diego, wrote in a naval inquiry commissioned shortly after the warship sank. He had been standing on the bridge of the ship, on a clear day with light winds. German naval records recovered after the war revealed that U-boat 156 had sailed just off the coast of New York, planting explosives.

"We believe that U-156 sunk San Diego," said Alexis



This Jan. 28, 1915 made available by the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command shows the USS San Diego while serving as flagship of the Pacific Fleet. Her name had been changed from California in September 1914.

Catsambis, an underwater archaeologist with the Navy. He presented the findings this week in Washington at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

Today, the shipwreck of San Diego is a rusting but well-preserved sanctuary for fish and lobsters. The researchers used information from the underwater vessel to create high-resolution 3D maps of the wreck. They modeled impact and flooding scenarios to analyze how the ship might have been attacked.

The flooding patterns weren't consistent with an explosion set inside the vessel. And the hole didn't look like a torpedo strike.

"Torpedoes of the time carried more explosives than mines — and would have shown more immediate damage," said Arthur Trembanis, at University of

Delaware marine scientist who collaborated on the study.

The mine was anchored at optimal depth to tear open a warship, said Ken Nah-

shon, a research engineer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Maryland, who also assisted the investigation. The underwater explosive hit an unguarded lower part of the ship, where the hull was only about a half inch thick, said Nahshon. Had it struck the warship's armored band, the 5-inch thick steel plating would have minimized the impact.

After the blast, the commander directed the ship's gunners to "open fire on anything resembling a periscope." Between 30 and 40 rounds were fired, in case an enemy submarine was nearby. The captain was aware German U-boats may have been operating in the area.

As the ship began to sink, Christy ordered the crew to pile into life rafts and dinghies. A passing whaleboat and two steamships helped rescue most of the San Diego's 1,100 sailors. □

Associated Press

Alaska groups sue EPA to enforce clean air laws in Fairbanks

By DAN JOLING

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Three Alaska groups sued Friday to demand the Environmental Protection Agency enforce the clean-up of some of the nation's most polluted winter air around the state's second-largest city.

The lawsuit filed in Seattle by environmental law firm Earthjustice says the state of Alaska has failed to submit a legally compliant plan to address the problem of particulate pollution caused by wood-burning stoves and other sources in the Fairbanks area. It urges the U.S. agency to set a deadline for a state cleanup plan and impose a federal proposal with stricter requirements if Alaska does not act within the timeframe.

"We've been waiting for over 10 years for action that results in cleaner air," Patrice Lee of Citizens for



In this Jan. 8, 2009, file photo, ice fog envelops downtown Fairbanks, Alaska.

Associated Press

Clean Air, one of the groups suing, said in a statement. Suzanne Skadowski, a spokeswoman for the EPA in Seattle, said she could not respond immediately to the lawsuit but that agency staff members have put a lot of time, effort and resources into helping the state and Fairbanks seek cleaner air. The agency designated the Fairbanks North Star Borough as out of compliance with federal air standards in November 2009. The borough has more violations than any other such area

nationwide, according to the lawsuit.

A major source of fine particulate around Fairbanks is woodstoves, which many residents use to warm homes instead of more expensive fuel in a region that routinely sees winter temperatures dip to minus 40 degrees. The pollution problem also is worsened by hills surrounding Fairbanks creating a bowl effect. Particulate can be trapped by inversions, layers of warmer air that cap cold, dirty air and keep it from dissipating. □



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Nancy Wilson, Grammy winning jazz singer, dies at 81

By ANDREW DALTON
HILLEL ITALIE

Associated Press

Nancy Wilson, the Grammy-winning "song stylist" and torch singer whose polished pop-jazz vocals made her a platinum artist and top concert performer, has died.

Wilson, who retired from touring in 2011, died after a long illness at her home in Pioneertown, a California desert community near Joshua Tree National Park, her manager and publicist Devra Hall Levy told The Associated Press late Thursday night. She was 81.

Influenced by Dinah Washington, Nat "King" Cole and other stars, Wilson covered everything from jazz standards to "Little Green Apples" and in the 1960s alone released eight albums that reached the top 20 on Billboard's pop charts. Sometimes elegant and understated, or quick and conversational and a little naughty, she was best known for such songs as her breakthrough "Guess Who I Saw Today" and the 1964 hit "(You Don't Know) How Glad I Am," which drew upon Broadway, pop and jazz.



In this Oct. 28, 2007 file photo, Nancy Wilson, left, and Terence Blanchard, right, perform during an all-star tribute concert for Herbie Hancock, in Los Angeles.

She resisted being identified with a single category, especially jazz, and referred to herself as a "song stylist." "The music that I sing today was the pop music of the 1960s," she told The San Francisco Chronicle in 2010. "I just never considered myself a jazz singer. I do not do runs and — you know. I take a lyric and make it mine. I consider myself an interpreter of the lyric."

Wilson's dozens of albums included a celebrated collaboration with Cannonball Adderley, "Nancy Wilson/Cannonball Adderley," a small group setting which understandably could be called jazz; "Broadway — My Way"; "Lush Life"; and "The Nancy Wilson Show!" a best-selling concert recording. "How Glad I Am" brought her a Grammy in 1965 for best R&B perfor-

mance, and she later won Grammys for best jazz vocal album in 2005 for the intimate "R.S.V.P. (Rare Songs, Very Personal)" and in 2007 for "Turned to Blue," a showcase for the relaxed, confident swing she mastered later in life. The National Endowment for the Arts awarded her a "Jazz Masters Fellowship" in 2004 for lifetime achievement. Wilson also had a busy

Associated Press

career on television, film and radio, her credits including "Hawaii Five-O," "Police Story," the Robert Townsend spoof "Meteor Man" and years hosting NPR's "Jazz Profiles" series. Active in the civil rights movement, including the Selma march of 1965, she received an NAACP Image Award in 1998. Wilson was married twice — to drummer Kenny Dennis, whom she divorced in 1970; and to Wiley Burton, who died in 2008. She had three children. Born in Chillicothe, Ohio, the eldest of six children of an iron foundry worker and a maid, Wilson sang in church as a girl and by age 4 had decided on her profession. She was in high school when she won a talent contest sponsored by a local TV station and was given her own program. After briefly attending Central State College, she toured Ohio with the Rusty Bryant's Carolyn Club Big Band and met such jazz artists as Adderley, who encouraged her to move to New York. She soon had a regular gig at The Blue Morocco, and got in touch with Adderley's manager, John Levy. □

Breakthrough Entertainer: 'Insecure' star Natasha Rothwell

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Natasha Rothwell claims she is shy in real life, but her scene-stealing supporting roles in HBO's hit show "Insecure" and the film "Love, Simon" have proven otherwise.

Rothwell's outspoken TV character, Kelli, shines with witty one-liners and brash behavior, sometimes even more than "Insecure" series' star Issa Rae.

One of her most epic moments came during an episode when Kelli urinates on herself after police used a stun gun on her after getting kicked out of Coachella because of a fight.

In "Love, Simon," Rothwell's screen time was limited in the romantic teen comedy, but she made her pres-



In this Oct. 23, 2018 photo, actress Natasha Rothwell poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

ence felt as a passionate teacher with strong opinions. Rothwell says both roles helped her become more confident in her skin as a woman.

"I get to put on someone who is truly unapologetic in every aspect of life," said Rothwell, a former drama teacher in New York who used to write for "Saturday Night Live." She is also a co-producer on "Insecure."

"As a black woman, I feel like much of my young adult life I was trying to apologize for being black or being a woman," she added. "Kelli is someone who has never known that. Now, as a woman, I'm proud on both sides."

Rothwell, 38, will have the opportunity to grow even more. She will join the cast of the Gal Gadot-led

"Wonder Woman 1984," which will arrive in theaters in summer 2020.

Rothwell also will appear alongside Tiffany Haddish and Rose Byrne in the comedy "Limited Partners," set for next year. She's also writing the upcoming film "Bridal Recall," which focuses on a woman who wakes up with amnesia on her wedding day.

In the future, Rothwell wants to play a lead in a romantic comedy and do animation voiceover work.

"I'm not afraid to be a superhero," she said before bursting into laughter. "What continues to be true about the projects that I'm drawn to is: Am I working with people who inspire me, does the material challenge me, excite me and say something?" □

Spit spot! Blunt's a practically perfect Poppins

By JOCELYN NOVECK
Associated Press

In the half-century since the original "Mary Poppins" debuted, we've learned a lot about refined sugar, frankly none of it good. Doctors tell us it can lead to obesity, heart disease and all sorts of other detriments to our health.

But let's face it, there are times when a little sugar — oh what the heck, let's say a spoonful — is just what we need, if not for health then for happiness. So it's sweet news indeed that "Mary Poppins Returns," a sequel 54 years in coming, provides just that spoonful of happiness in the form of Emily Blunt, practically perfect in every way as the heir to Julie Andrews.

"Spit spot!" "Pish Posh!" "Jiggety Jog!" (Did we spell that right?) These Poppinsisms slip effortlessly off Blunt's tongue. It's also no simple feat to gaze at one's reflection and say "practically perfect in every way" and not seem egotistical, but Blunt's easy warmth and charm shine through. Of course she can also



This image released by Disney shows Emily Blunt as Mary Poppins in "Mary Poppins Returns."

sing, and dance, with partners both live and animated. And she's funny — witness her priceless indignation when a child asks how much she weighs. But then she can spin on a dime and convey that steely Poppins nerve, that sense that in a crisis, she knows exactly what must be done, and

everybody else had better stand aside. There's further happy news here: It's not just Blunt that's at the top of her game in this thoroughly delightful enterprise by director Rob Marshall and a crack team of artists devoted to both honoring a time-worn classic and finding something new to say.

The visuals are lovely, from the oil paintings in the opening credits to the bal-

loon-filled spring fair at the end. And Sandy Powell's costumes are fabulous, especially the reds and blues and stripes and polka dots that adorn Mary, from her straw-hatted head to her turned-out feet (What we wouldn't give for one of those slender-waisted, caped overcoats, or polka-dot bow ties). And those candy-hued clothes that Mary, Jack and the Banks kids wear in the center-

piece scene mixing live action and animation? They're literally hand-painted, to delectable effect.

Blunt's star power is complemented here by appealing turns from Lin-Manuel Miranda as the aforementioned Jack, a kind-hearted lamplighter who once worked for Bert the chimney sweep (aka Dick Van Dyke); Ben Whisham and Emily Mortimer as the elder Banks children, a slimy Colin Firth as the bank chief, and, for icing on the cake, a flame-haired Meryl Streep as Mary's vaguely Eastern European cousin Topsy ("Vat do you VANT?").

The setting is Depression-era London, where widowed Michael lives with his three young children at 17 Cherry Tree Lane, struggling to stay afloat. Sister Jane, a labor organizer, lives in a flat across town.

As we begin, Michael learns he's behind on loan payments, and the bank wants to take his house. He's given five days to find proof that his father owned shares there, which could save the home. Searching desperately, he comes across an old kite but tosses it in the trash. □

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 AQUAMAN JASON MOMOA AMBER HEARD WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13] MON-THU 7:50 FRI 7:50 10:45 SAT 1:00 7:50 10:45 SUN 1:00 7:50 CXC MON-FRI 3:15 9:05 SAT-SUN 3:15 3:45 9:05 TUP MON-THU 5:35 8:30 FRI 5:35 8:30 11:25 SAT 2:40 5:35 8:30 11:25 SUN 2:40 5:35 8:30	 ONCE UPON A DEADPOOL RYAN REYNOLDS JOSH BROLIN WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13] MON-FRI 4:10 6:40 SAT-SUN 1:45 4:10 6:40
 SPIDER-MAN JAKE JOHNSON HAILIE STEINFELD INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG] MON-FRI 4:15 6:45 SAT-SUN 1:50 4:15 6:45 SPANISH SAT-SUN 1:00	 MORTAL ENGINES [PG-13] HERA HILMAR HUGO WEAVING MON-SUN 9:10 TUP MON-THU 6:05 8:45 FRI 6:05 8:45 11:25 SAT 3:25 6:05 8:45 11:25 SUN 3:25 6:05 8:45
 RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET [PG] JOHN C. REILLY SARAH SILVERMAN WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG] MON-FRI 5:45 SAT-SUN 1:00 3:20 5:45	 CREED 2 [PG-13] MICHAEL B. JORDAN SYLVESTER STALLONE WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13] MON-THU & SUN 8:10 FRI-SAT 8:10 10:55
 THE GRINCH [PG] BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH CAMERON SEELY WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG] MON-SUN 3:50 5:50	

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Royals reveal the images on their Christmas cards

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British officials have released the photos chosen by members of the royal family for their Christmas cards. Prince William and his wife Kate are shown outside in casual clothes, their three young children in tow. Prince Harry and Meghan chose a black and white motif that shows the newlyweds admiring a fireworks display at their evening wedding reception in May. For ardent gardener Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, the choice was a photo that showed them gazing lovingly at one another while sitting on a bench surrounded by greenery. And Queen Elizabeth II?



This photo released by Kensington Palace on Friday Dec. 14, 2018, shows the photo taken by Matt Porteous of Britain's Prince William and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge with their children Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis at Anmer Hall in Norfolk, east England, which is to be used as their 2018 Christmas card.

Associated Press

Buckingham Palace officials say there are no plans to release an image of the

card used by the queen and her husband, Prince Philip. □

Top TV moments: 'Roseanne,' Oprah's speech, message funerals

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was a remarkably dramatic year on television, with much of it unscripted.

While prime-series including "This Is Us" and "Atlanta" reached notable emotional and provocative highs, TV impressively fulfilled its role as witness to gripping real-life events.

We had the chance to see it all unfold: today's barbed politics in unlikely settings; a woman essentially saying MeToo to U.S. senators; the suitably extravagant goodbye to an American queen.

Here are some of the moments with staying power:

OPRAH'S SPEECH

Winfrey's rousing call for social justice in the name of the MeToo movement drew wild cheers in the ballroom at the Golden Globes in January and reverberated across the land. Pundits and Oprah-whisperers proclaimed it a first step toward a presidential run, and #oprah2020 trended. It's would be a true Hollywood script: an entertainment mogul challenges a reality-show host for the Oval Office. Oprah said no way; the chatter continues.

JACK'S SACRIFICE

The time-shifting series revealed in season one that Jack Pearson (Milo Ventimiglia) was destined to die young, leaving a grieving widow, his unmoored children and viewers tortured



This Jan. 7, 2018 image released by NBC shows Oprah Winfrey accepting the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

by the mystery of what did him in. In episodes airing in January and February, we learned it was a faulty slow-cooker and Jack's boundless sense of duty. America's tears flowed even as we turned a fearful eye toward our kitchen appliances.

THE RISE AND FALL OF "ROSEANNE"

Three decades after it ended, the comedy about the blue-collar Conner family and its brassy matriarch returned in March as a success for ABC and Roseanne Barr. The revival hit the sweet — or sour — spot

of politics and culture today, with a polarizing star whose character mirrored her backing for President Donald Trump. The magic evaporated in May after Barr's racist slam of Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett. ABC called her tweet "abhorrent" and canceled the series.

"ATLANTA" IN WHITE

Donald Glover, whose reimagination of the TV comedy challenges viewers, tested them with a truly unsettling character, Teddy Perkins, depicted in mask-like whiteface (an uncredited performance by Glover,

though it remains a mystery who made Teddy's cameo appearance at the Emmys).

Was the episode in April a riff on the sad life of a Michael Jackson-like celebrity? A slap at the insulting blackface used by white entertainers past? We're still mulling.

GADSBY'S REVOLUTION

The Australian standup was little known in America when her Netflix special "Hannah Gadsby: Nanette" arrived in June, dissecting culture and the very artform she practices. She was heralded as a ma-

jor new voice and her work was labeled "transformative" and "game changing," the kind of awe and admiration granted to enduring comedy greats such as Richard Pryor, George Carlin and Dave Chapelle.

ARETHA'S FAREWELL

The Queen of Soul's memorial was one for the ages, with preachers, Motown and gospel legends and political and religious leaders offering speeches and songs in praise of Franklin's life, artistry and activism on behalf of African-Americans and women. Stevie Wonder sang, and so did Smokey Robinson and Chaka Khan and Shirley Caesar and Gladys Knight and Ariana Grande and ... plenty of others, since the service ran eight hours. Franklin's voice was stilled, but her spirit resonated.

COLIN KAEPERNICK'S STAND

In his "Just Do It" TV spot for Nike that marked the campaign's 30th anniversary in September, the sidelined-by-kneeling NFL quarterback somberly challenged viewers to "believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything." Some responded with anger, cutting or burning Nike gear and calling for boycotts. President Donald Trump slammed the company's move, while LeBron James defended it, saying he stands for those who believe in change. □

Eddie Palmieri's latest will move you to dance

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON

Associated Press

Eddie Palmieri, "Mi Luz Mayor" (Ropeadope)

It might be the winter season for the U.S., but Eddie Palmieri brings the sunshine and warmth with his latest album, "Mi Luz Mayor."

The Spanish Harlem, New Yorker is a living legend and cultural treasure — chances are you've heard his melodies or tunes influenced by him during your last vacation in the Caribbean, or when you

walked through Washington Heights on your way to the Cloisters.

"Mi Luz Mayor," which loosely translates into "My Eternal Light," is filled with bright, melodic tunes that are almost guaranteed to make you get up and salsa — or at least try.

The eight-time Grammy winner recruited dozens of renowned musicians for the album, including frequent collaborators Jimmy Bosch, Luques Curtis, Brian Lynch and Little Johnny Rivero. The album is comprised of



This cover image released by Ropeadope shows "Mi Luz Mayor," a release by Eddie Palmieri.

Associated Press

eight salsa arrangements, along with three originals

— "Mi Congo" featuring famed guitarist Carlos Santana, the title track and "Yo Soy Mulato," an ode to his grandmother of African descent.

Songs like "Chica Ni Lambó," "Abarriba Cumbiaremos" and "Quimbombo" — the latter two featuring a superb Herman Olivera — grab you and transport you into a tiny Puerto Rican cafe, where the locals effortlessly glide, spin and twirl into the night.

There's also the beautiful "Que Falta Tu Me Haces," a

slower ballad sang so beautifully by the esteemed Gilberto Santa Rosa you'll be encouraged to play it for the one you adore, even if you don't completely understand the Spanish lyrics. "Mi Luz Mayor," Palmieri's second full-length release this year, was created in love: The pianist, bandleader and composer, who turns 82 on Saturday, said it is reminiscent of the "music that my late wife, Irida, and I enjoyed in our youth" (Palmieri lost his wife to cancer in 2014). □

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